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JOHN CANDY: KING OF COMEDY



- Why Canada is not at the head of the class
- The coming revolution in Canadian education





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Maclean's

CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

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Are we cheating our kids?



44 Fed up with "child-controlled" education—and worn down by the recession—angry parents are demanding that schools go back to the basics. But many teachers disagree: opening children's minds, they say, and exciting them about learning, are far more important than memorizing multiplication tables—especially in preparing for the 21st century.

Bouchard's hat trick

12 Lucien Bouchard juggled the roles of Quebec separatist, leader of the official Opposition and diplomat during a visit to Washington. He told Americans that Quebec independence would be painless—but not all were convinced.



Candy's sweet legacy



66 On the big screen, John Candy specialized in generous losers, sweet-colored fellows who just couldn't get it right. In his private life, Candy, who died last week at age 43, was a generous winner, an international star who was also, according to his friends and admirers, an incredibly nice guy.

LETTERS

A many-sided issue

From personal experience, I know my otrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) is a hereditary, debilitating disease. My maternal grandfather died from ALS at the age of 42, leaving behind the children rearing in his final six months to nine years old. My mother was 7 at the time and she can still remember how my grandmother probably would sing to the point where the only available communication was by lipreading. While I can understand Sue Rodriguez's motivation for elective assisted suicide ("The legacy of Sue Rodriguez," Special Report, Feb. 28), I still have a fear—the speed at which the right to die will become a duty to die. I hope our legislators keep this in mind.

Geoff Riley,
Windsor, Ont.

I was deeply moved by your poignant article depicting Sue Rodriguez's arduous battle with both her affliction and the Canadian legal system. It is true that courts uphold the right of citizens to exercise control over their bodies regarding abortion, yet steadfastly deny it to terminally ill Canadians the right to choose how and when they exit from this world. By rendering doctor-assisted suicide the courts will be better able to ensure what is now happen only slowly every day—and those who have to endure the horrendous decision can, then, feel less emotional and more courageous.

Jonathan Seelye
Calgary

How can anyone about to take their life be described as sane and capable simply because they discussed their need to destroy themselves with a couple of family doctors? Such an extraordinary measure cannot possibly be rationalized or justified by an act of Parliament. With this country's rigid decision to be machine, and with modern palliative drugs such a final act always awaits anybody, whatever the tragic cause may be.

Charles Dennis,
Waterloo, B.C.

'How enlightened?'

I find it particularly disgusting that a member of our Parliament, Second Robinson of British Columbia, who shares in the responsibility for leading our country, should be so ignorant of a move like Zero Patient ("Speaking act," Opening notes, March 12).



David Robinson, Rodriguez the 'right to die' could become a 'duty to die'

discovered in your review of the movie in the same issue. "How, the movie?" I find that the film contains scenes that feature such things as "a diet performed by two animated singing swans," scenes that you tell us "left the film a appeal to an 'in crowd of gypsies, AIDS activists and urban sophisticates—hardly the audience that needs enlightening.' There is an obvious question that is left hanging here: how enlightened can people be if scenes of "animated singing swans" appeal to them?

Don Wynn
Calgary

'Well done'

Myron Bodard's two gold medals in women's bledition at Lillehammer ("Previous matter," The Lifestylers, March 7) culminated an effort that began in 1964 when a national bledition team was conceived. In an attempt to fortify Canada's proposal at the time to host the Olympic Games in Calgary by having national teams competing in all the Winter Games disciplines, the government sponsored a Canadian Forces bledition team. I was the first captain of the team, which included soldiers, sailors and airmen. A team captain represented Canada at the 1968 Grenoble Olympics. As a result of this project, bledition was given a major boost in Canada and, with that extraordinary victory in Lillehammer, the bledition has borne golden fruit. Well done, Mr. Bodard.

Hank Morris,
Independent-colonialist (retired),
United Nations OFFICIAL,
San Salvador

'Hue and cry'

The lowering of tobacco taxes ("The worst fear," Canada/Cones, Feb. 28) has ended an emotionally charged hue and cry from the nonsmoking majority. One gets the impression that all smokers feel that they are under attack, just smokers. Apart from the tobacco industry, perhaps, is there any one who would seriously argue in favor of smoking? Thirty years ago, there was little public awareness of the dangers of smoking. Since then, things have changed drastically by fear of cancer, heart attack and other health concerns have led to an impressive decline in smoking. It is ludicrous to assert that the government's decision to cut tobacco taxes is an endorsement of smoking. Clearly it is an effort to control an otherwise uncontrollable criminal trade. One of the resulting benefits for the nonsmoking groups will be statistics on smoking that are no longer invalidated by a multibillion-dollar black market.

Jo Bialt,
Mississauga, Ont.

I began smoking when I was 14 years old and have been fighting the addiction for the past 29 years. Recently, I bought my first pack of 85 cigarettes, and instead of being elated I was upset. Cigarettes should be 50¢ a pack to offset the horrendous medical, emotional and social expense to our society caused by smoking. I am so disgusted with our government's handling of fighting smoking with cigarette tax cuts that I think I will finally quit smoking.

Terry Myers
Toronto

Letters may be edited for space and clarity. Please include name, address and daytime telephone. Write Letters to the Editor, Maclean's magazine, 177 Bay St., Toronto, Ont. M5H 3A7. Or fax: (416) 593-7758.

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OPENING NOTES



Harris, with Mowat on *Legs* singer

Hidebound creativity

Of all the ways to disseminate undying adoration, having someone's image engraved in your flesh has got to be one of the most persistent—and painful. As immortal MacKenzie's survey of tattoo artists found that potential tattoos, while common, are catchings. Among the top subjects are family members and pets. Next in popularity are dead rock stars, with Jimi Hendrix, Jesus (yes, Jesus) and Janis Joplin leading the pack. Living rock stars take third place. "Last summer, I did a big portrait of [heavy metal rocker] Ozzy Osbourne on a girl's rear end," recalls Mike Austin, a tattooist in London, Ont. But Austin himself gets up marks for creativity.

The 35-year-old has captured an image of Harry Potter on his right leg. Austin says that he wanted to go "inside to the writer, with which he began corresponding at age 10 after reading *Never Cry Wolf*." And Mowat, apparently, was gratified by the tribute. When Austin sent a photograph of his tattooed leg, Mowat wrote from his home in Port Hope, Ont.: "The information that delisted to find myself riding around the world on your night owl. It is a unique point of view and I do sure I will see things that I couldn't possibly have encountered any other way."

WORD FOR WORD Mulroney: getting even

In his first public appearance since the Conservative party's crushing election defeat last October, former prime minister Brian Mulroney spoke about his post-politics—the 1990 Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA). As he depicted the agreement as a threat to a business minister in Montreal last week, Mulroney pointed out his personal politics but not Mulroney's personal politics.

"Simply put, in five years [since passage of the FTA], we have increased our exports to the United States by 42 per cent.... FTA supporters often argue that over 350,000 manufacturing jobs have been lost in Canada during the recession were all due to the FTA. Well, during approximately the same period, over 350,000 jobs were lost in the state of New Jersey. Did they disappear because of the FTA too, presumably by leading them to Canada, or did the recession and the demands of worldwide economic restructuring have something to do with it?.... [Our] social programs remain essentially unimpaired today, though clearly in need of significant reform. And few will forget the antismoking prohibitions about madmen. Remember the argument that, because of free trade, we were going to lose by being forced to harmonize ourselves with the U.S. health-care

system?" Well, it would appear that the opposite is about to happen, the U.S. seems set to move closer to the Canadian system. And what a loud our cultural identity? Well, the only lethal threat there is from an inward-looking and antigovernment economy that no longer perceives the new wealth and power required to

contain the substance and symbols of a great nation. In a classic bit of irony, by making our economy significantly more productive, the FTA may well become one of the greatest bulwarks against American cultural values. After all, that Canada has seen since the *Articles of Confederation*."

Afterward, Mulroney fielded questions about the election defeat that left the former governing party with only two seats in the House of Commons. Among his comments:

"I was asked to lead the Conservative party and I led it to two victories. We were there and when I found it over we were in good shape.... I think it could have been an interesting campaign if I had received a leader. I was two and I thought though I had another one left to me.... I thought I would miss [political], but it turns out I haven't."



Mulroney with wife Anne



Newfoundland fishermen: predictions of a 'permanent welfare economy'

Wanted: contrarians

At first glance, mild-mannered Barbara Copeston, 64, seems like a bookish professor. But last month, the 70-year-old senior professor at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, B.C., became the first recipient of a unique new academic award—the Sterling Prize in Support of Contrarianism. The \$2,000 annual prize was created by Ted Sterling, 50, the former chairman of the university's computer science department, and his psychologist wife, Nora, 64, to encourage open debate and free-thought.

Copeston was honored for a 1992 study in which he predicted many of Newfoundland's current woes. The prize, he wrote, would honor someone "a permanent welfare economy" unless it rationalized its fishing industry and encouraged the "autonomous" of residents in other parts of the country. His work, undertaken daily, provoked widespread criticism on the West at the time. "I think it's the only being contrarian," says Copeston, "who has had a Newfoundland folk song devoted to his death."

Capital and crimes

Trans-Canada Airlines has become the TV phenomena of the 1990s, exhibiting some people's desire for grisly details—plus cash for information that will be the case. Now, two New York City writers are offering the same details: look back. Award's details 50 police crimes and the 50 rewards for information led to so much as each case. Most the crimes are American, but 10 are from back in Canada, 10 Canadian cases, and there are of the more than 50 million in word history that has been of by police.

Jan Parent, 31, "The Toronto girl who lived from her home by a ranger on July 25, 1996, and last night was found two days later in a park near Toronto, 520,000."

John Shaw, 21: "The University of Western Ontario student was abducted while driving Highway 401 east of London, Ont., on July 16, 1990. Her burned body was found 10 miles from Toronto, 520,000."

John Mura, 41: "After disappearing from his apartment building on July 30, 1985,

she has never been found. She would now be 35. Reward: \$50,000."

Michael Durovich, 4: Kidnapped from a Victoria playground on March 24, 1991, he has not been seen since. He would now be 17. Reward: \$200,000."

Cliffy Walling, 17: She was last seen alive while hitchhiking near Burnaby, Ont., on April 30, 1994. Her remains were found over the end of last month, in a wooded area near the city. Reward: \$100,000."

Shirley, 19-year-old Canadian, 9: After disappearing on Jan. 23, 1983, she was found dead nine days later in the refrigerator of a Toronto nursing home. Reward: \$200,000."

Scottish Hospital For Sick Children: More than 40 deaths died approximately in 1980 and 1981. Toxic levels of drugs were later found at their bodies. Reward: \$100,000."

Cheryl Nelson, 20: The Toronto prostitute was found brutally murdered behind an old warehouse on March 5, 1993. Reward: \$50,000."

Phyllis Angelini, 25: The legal secretary was found by a friend on Dec. 22, 1991, on a highway near London, Ontario. Reward: \$1,000."

PASSAGES



with Foster, 44, last Grammy Awards, at the 30th annual National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences awards ceremony, in New York City. The Victoria-born producer-composer was three Grammys—best album, record and producer (non-classical)—for the second track of *The Bodyguard*, starring singer Whitney Houston, who was three awards for the album. Foster, whose career Grammy total now is 12, also won for arranging *When I Fall in Love*, sung by Céline Dion, in the 1993 film *Steph in Seattle*. The only other Canadian to receive a Grammy was Walter Ostrum, 56, of St. Catharines, Ont., first police album, *Accidentally Yours*. Ostrum was in his category for the second time in a row.

ONTO: Playwright Elliott Hayes, 37, is a traffic accident 10 km north of Stratford, Ont., where he lived his most successful play, the black comedy *Homeward Bound*, opened in the 1984 Stratford Festival and subsequently received more than a dozen North American productions.

RECOVERING: Grunge singer Kurt Cobain, 27, the lead vocalist with the top-selling alternative rock band Nirvana, from a poisoning during a scheduled concert, was left in a coma for four hours in March.

REHAB: Lucerne, 24, from a Virginia Memorial hospital, where she had been an alternative student since Jan. 21 when a jury acquitted her on the grounds of insanity after she had been charged with the murder of her husband's son. She was released from the hospital to receive outpatient treatment.

NOIR: By B.C. politician Jeff Tynick, 22, co-wrote of the first novel, *My Sister Sam*, at age 16, to her former husband, by order of B.C. Supreme Court Justice John Sparrow, in Victoria, Spencer said. Tynick, whose romance with former Liberal leader Gordon Wilson co-wrote *My Sister Sam*, is being "interviewed by her lawyer agents." She and Wilson are to marry on May 22.

RECOVERING: Former Black Panther co-leader and author Eldridge Cleaver, 58, from brain surgery, after being arrested on drug charges after his house in Berkeley, Calif., Cleaver, author of the 1968 best-seller *Soul on Ice*, suffered a brain hemorrhage while at his custody on charges of possession of cocaine and public demonstrations.

BEST-SELLERS

FICTION

1. *The Silent Shores*, Carol Shields (2)
2. *Accident*, Jonathan Carroll (2)
3. *The Britons of American Country*, Brian Wilton (2)
4. *Life After Dark*, Douglas Coupland
5. *Elephant*, Michael Chabon (2)
6. *Public Choice*, M. K. O'Neil (2)
7. *The White House*, J. S. Roth (2)
8. *The Black Atlantic*, John Edgar Wideman (2)
9. *The Foxglove*, Nicholas Baker
10. *Nyctaglyph*, Deborah Davis (2)

11. *Prison for Work*
Compiled by Brian Reardon

NONFICTION

1. *Agony and Ecstasy*, Thomas Mann, Doris O'Connell (2)
2. *Emerson*, by the L.A. Times, 100 (2)
3. *The Phoenix*, Thomas Mann (2)
4. *Island in the Sea*, Peter G. Brown (2)
5. *My Life*, Eleanor Roosevelt (2)
6. *Memories*, Peter G. Brown (2)
7. *Fire with Fire*, Susan Sontag (2)
8. *A History of the World*, John H. Coatsworth (2)
9. *Secondhand Happiness*, James Williams (2)
10. *Shadows and Shavings*, Michael Ondaatje (2)

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COLUMN



Now is the time for some optimism

BY BARBARA AMIEL

There are all sorts of reasons to be hopeful about Canada. I begin in this conventional way because my mail is filled with letters from Canadians who feel overconfidence like me ought not to be writing a column in *Maclean's*. All right, I promise to write one day, but looking forward to the time when I don't have to stress myself to do so in order to meet deadlines, and devoid of the moments when I can sit like the rich lady waiting while waiters tell me I am over my cup measure 18 months ago.

Living in London, I miss all sorts of things about Canada. I miss moments in the city where the weather is unambiguous. I miss hanging out, which means drifting around Toronto with girlfriends and crying clothes at Holt Renfrew. I miss sitting in Yeobright's Café MIT with a better spouse or two. And I miss the lack of hypocrisy in Canadians. Glib is not a national characteristic.

Once upon a time, Canada was starkly caught up in all kinds of political discussions based on the assumptions of left-wing stations. Everything could be perfect in Canada, said Pierre Elliott Trudeau and his successors. If only the rich would give trust to their nation, to the state which would then do a lot of merely governmental things and to those groups designated by the rulers of the day to be disadvantaged. This turned out not to work.

People don't make money in order to give it away to the government, and so many of Canada's wealthiest and brightest left for more welcoming shores. The brunt of the tax burden fell on the middle and lower-middle classes. We discovered that Newfoundland could not be made into Toronto simply by dint of pouring Ontario's money into it, but Ontario could and is becoming Newfoundland. Many Canadians became dependent on the state, and the state became dependent on the state, and the state became dependent on the state.

And ultimately, these groups designated as disadvantaged expanded to include virtually everyone except possibly white, middle-class males. Canadian politicians are cracking these

Canada may be in a dire economic strait, but it has strong resources in its citizens. Given leadership, they will not fall down.

days at a blazing rate. It's rather like making the journey from the Ice Age to Modern Times in a week. Assumptions about welfare benefits and official middle-classness are all up for review. What, then, are hopeful signs in the chaos?

The polls say that Jacques Parizeau may win the election this year in Quebec. That is supported to be very bad news, but such is the current opinion that I see a silver lining in that as well. The day that Parizeau is elected, there will be family discussions in the Assembly of Montreal. In the past, the day of the West and the day of the East have been the day of the West and the day of the East. The day of the West and the day of the East have been the day of the West and the day of the East. The day of the West and the day of the East have been the day of the West and the day of the East.

The British silver will be wrapped in soft cloth and large carous will be filled with Lincolns, purports and early French-Canadian and Middle-Oceanian fashions. The musical goods and bank accounts acquired by generations of comfortable paucity will be transferred, together with the British and Japanese. All that might be kept is the summer house in Murray Bay or Kawartha. And so it

will come to pass: those Montreal leathers whose names seem to start with M or P, who appear to be related to one another by marriage or blood or who know only to those names and Peter Newman—the Malsons, Marlene MacGillivray, Patricia Price, Mac Douglas—will finally conclude that they do not belong in Quebec and, in spite of emigration, will never in a widely spoken to Ontario.

They will arrive somewhere around Toronto, befuddled and irritated. They will be welcomed in Montreal except by a few shockers on St. Catherine Street. Their houses in Westmount will be taken over by French bourgeoisie who will find, contrary to received wisdom, that the English can live without the French much more easily than the French can live without the English.

The rearrangement of Canada is under way. Populists are on the move, provinces may separate and political borders are totally realigning their policies. Even Jean Chrétien has heard the screams and so, though he did not feel the message to speak to them in his new budget, Paul Martin has heard the message and needed help.

History has a way of throwing up leaders in dire times. My kindergarten goes on Winston Churchill and Margaret Thatcher. He beat the Nazis and she beat the neo-Nazis in England, and both ordered a country on the edge of moral exhaustion. My letter wrote me a letter from England just before he died as well, in which he asked if I had read the Old World was a book. He wrote "the sun in the end of the New World." Perhaps it was the pain of his wounds that made him think so, but I always thought his observations much to the point. British society seems to suffer from a pernicious attitude made up of the remnants of its old class system and British blood from two world wars. London can guide the country out of very bad times, but the British people cannot sustain the new ways after the leaders go.

Canada may be in a dire economic strait, but it has strong resources in its citizens. Given leadership they will not fall down after the party is over. Two years ago virtually no one beyond Reagan had heard of Ralph Klein. Now his determined effort to reduce Alberta's deficit through tough government spending has made him a household name. He has made it in and in major tax cuts. Klein has spent on a tough spending cuts and low tax platform and the voters gave him a mandate to put his budget through. New public servants from the police to social workers are screaming for Klein's head and his success in that province is nothing short of an ideological revolution. History throws up leaders and Canada already has Ralph Klein, the quiet man from Alberta. A case for optimism that most serious Canadians may be too close to see, eh?

The Opposition leader juggled several roles while assuring Americans

BOUCHARD'S HAT TRICK

Leslie Bouchard wore hats during the chilly, history-filled hours he spent in Washington last week. But by his own account, he wore three metaphorical hats—as Quebec separatist, as leader of the official Opposition in Canada's Parliament and as a diplomat. Much of the time, certainly, during a meeting with members of the U.S. Congress and as a speaker at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, he was first and foremost the separatist. His word, in preference to the more abstract notion of "sovereignty," at other times, he stressed Canada's interests, notably during a private audience at the state department, as he described it later. And throughout the public part of his itinerary, he was always the diplomat, mostly on behalf of Quebec's economic but also, he said, in his determination to avoid embarrassing either Ottawa or his American hosts. So much was Bouchard the diplomat, in fact, so cool and composed even when goaded, that he made the breakup of Canada and its aftermath seem as smoothly untroubled a process—as Americans, as well as for Quebecers and the rest of Canada—as his own polite behavior in the sleepy U.S. capital.

All at all, judging from the serene and even positive public reactions among his American audiences, and from the gracious VIP treatment he received at the Canadian Embassy, Bouchard's last-look performance was a star turn. "There is less apprehension about a sovereign Quebec," said Minnesota Democratic congressman James Oberstar after Bouchard's Capitol Hill session. And that, along with similar remarks from others, reflected just what was sought by the leader of the Bloc Québécois. Bouchard said he feared that Americans are now more interested in how Quebec will separate from Canada rather than, as in the past, musing the question of why Quebec would do so. "I am quite satisfied with the result of my visit," Bouchard said at his agenda in Washington and at a New York City meeting held with United Nations Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. "It pro-

vided me with the privileged occasion to express as clearly and as objectively as I can the parameters of the sovereigntist project in Quebec."

The "project," as Bouchard described it, is almost out and dried: the election of a Parti Québécois government this year, followed by a referendum on sovereignty, followed by negotiations with Canada to sustain "the Canadian economic zone," as he called the present status of Canada in his 20-minute speech to the international studies group. "We believe that the imperatives of mutual interests will prevail, given the advanced level of economic integration that exists between Quebec and Canada." The Bloc Québécois, meanwhile, will defend Quebec's negotiating position in Ottawa.

After that, said Bouchard, Americans should know that "they will always be able to count on the cooperation and friendship of their neighbors to the north." Indeed, he said, Quebecers are friendly to Americans than are other Canadians, adding that Quebec carried the day for the Canada U.S. Free Trade Agreement in the 1988 federal election, and cited several other examples (like Quebec's support for U.S. cruise missile tests over Canada).

Bouchard's serene, despite including a qualification that his ill-fated appeals on Quebec voters, was challenged during a question and answer session after his speech—from a Canadian, not an American, and more as an answer than as a question. René Simard, Quebec's New York-based deputy-consul in the United States, took issue with Bouchard's account of Quebec's past and present, questioned his claim that the Bloc Québécois represents the interests of Quebecers and said there is no guarantee that Jacques Parizeau's PQ will defeat Premier Daniel Johnson's Liberals in the Quebec election that must be called by next fall. "It is far from certain that the Liberal party will lose that election," said Simard, "and if they do lose it is far from certain that the people of Quebec would vote in favor of independence." Bouchard insisted that his party was sent to Ottawa to represent Quebecers in

Parliament and told Simard it would be better to debate that in Canada.

As for Quebec's election prospects, Bouchard's reference to accurately informed developments during the previous few days. On the eve of Bouchard's departure for the United States, the Quebec Liberals defied expectations by winning a by-election in the Eastern Townships riding of Shefford. Their first win in such contests since the party won the last provincial election in 1989. That followed by one week's upsurge by the PQ in Bouchard's riding, a Liberal stronghold in the Gaspé peninsula. In the interim, an opinion poll showed the Liberals almost tied with the PQ, at 31 per cent of popular support to 31 per cent, after trailing in such surveys for months.

Bouchard's version of Quebec's future was also challenged by Quebecers themselves, and mostly sympathetic, equality party—but from a distance. After Bouchard's speech, party leader Ruth Hardman and Neil Cameron, the party's house leader in Canada's National Assembly, held a news conference at Washington's National Press Building and heaped scorn on Bouchard's suggestions that the transition to Quebec independence would be trouble-free. They said a substantial minority of Quebecers will resist on protecting their constitutional rights against what they termed a "unilateral declaration of independence" by a PQ government. Said Hardman: "Mr. Bouchard advocates secession from Canada, a course of action fraught with potential disaster and pain."

By the time Hardman and Cameron were speaking, Bouchard was finishing lunch at the international studies center before moving on to a meeting with the Washington Post editorial board. These appointments were private, as were an evening dinner given for Bouchard and his wife, Audrey, by Archbishop Raymond Grogan and his state department meeting with Stephen Gromas, assistant secretary of state for European and Canadian affairs. At the state department, Bouchard discussed his Canadian hat; he said he raised questions on trade in farm products, and as a former federal environment minister he pressed for greater efforts to clean up the Great Lakes. Overall, Bouchard and

**Bouchard
an end of
Canadian
Embassy
journalist
occasion'**

cast that has encounters with Americans had all been polite—although "bark and bark, as Americans say."

Bouchard started the country, he explained, by not making a meeting with President Bill Clinton for first of all, in fact, in Washington and official Ottawa is an embarrassing position. Even if Bouchard had gone to the White House, as both Jean Chretien and Brian Mulroney had when they were Opposition leaders, it is unlikely that he would have received any more than the same, situation accorded in the past by the American news media and official Washington. In a self-disciplined capital where foreign crops and money come and go with some attention (British Prime Minister John Major's visit to the White House the day before Bouchard's arrival was hardly ignored), Bouchard's encounters were accompanied with a tight little circle of Americans. In his role as Opposition leader, Bouchard was following a well-worn pattern established by Joe Clark, Mulroney and Chretien when they held the same office. Bouchard is not even the first separatist leader from Canada to make the trip to the U.S. capital. René Lévesque, when premier of Quebec, just an official visit in Washington in 1982, and delivered almost identical assurances to congressional and administration leaders as did Bouchard last week.

For Bouchard's Capitol Hill meeting at the House of Representatives, 20 members, which is extraordinary, confirmed that they would be here," said New York Representative John McHugh, who co-chaired the meeting with Oberstar. In the event, however, "there were about a dozen who came in and out" of the crowded meeting, said McHugh, leaving half the members. About 30 hours in many people—foreign affairs specialists, civil servants and the Canadian media contingent—attended Bouchard's morning speech.

But while Bouchard's intention position in a Quebec separatist to Parliament makes his news in Canada, he did not attract much media attention in Washington either, that a couple of prior newspaper reports that he was coming to assure Washington that Quebec's separation could be peaceful for Quebec, Canada and the United States. True to his advice, Bouchard did not talk on the radio, for example, Canada's accession to the North American Free Trade Agreement with the strong support of both Quebec and the Bloc Québécois means that "Quebec is thus included in a vast and expanding free trade area—and this will not change."

Others, though, said it would not be so simple. William Martin, a former U.S. trade negotiator and a vocal proponent of free trade in Washington, said that an independent Quebec would likely have to renegotiate its participation in the trade pact. "I would be shocked if it was an automatic process," said Martin adding, "I would think they would be at square 1, just like Chile if and when they come forward to become part of NAFTA."

Still, some Americans seemed to accept Bouchard's optimistic message. McHugh, for his part, said that he was "very reassured and very happy to hear the things that Mr. Bouchard said," citing Bouchard's statements that as independent Quebec would seek to conduct business as usual in its trade and defense agreements, maintaining in particular the St. Lawrence Seaway and exporting electrical power to New York state without disruptions. Bouchard, McHugh added, "had an excellent job" of assuring consciousness that Quebec's independence "would make little or no difference in the way we treat each other." For many Canadians and Quebecers, it is not for Americans, that they seem an improbable prospect.

CARL WOLLENS in Washington

Fall of the Eagle

Alan Eagleson faces charges of fraud and embezzlement

BY STEVE CAMERON

Tears ran down Carl Brewer's face as he stood in the dimly lit press room of the federal courthouse in Boston last week listening to a U.S. official read a grand jury indictment against Alan Eagleson, the most powerful figure in Canadian hockey for almost a quarter century. The 32 counts against Eagleson pulled no punches: racketeering, fraud, embezzlement, kickbacks and obstruction of justice. If convicted, Eagleson could serve as little as three years in jail—or more than 20. For Brewer, it was the end of a long and difficult battle. The former Toronto Maple Leafs defenceman had spent two decades representing his fellow players in fight Eagleson's iron grip on the sport. "It's not that I'd be happy to see him go to jail," said Brewer after the hearing. "It's just that I wanted him stopped."

Slapped in hardly the most for it, the indictment followed two years of work by a federal grand jury and a three-part probe investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. justice department. Eagleson's role in the charges could be held as early as September in the U.S. district court in Boston before Judge Nathaniel Gordon. The charges allege that Eagleson:

- Defrauded members of the National Hockey League Players' Association (NHLPA), the union he founded in 1967, and misappropriated hundreds of thousands of dollars in union money (not belonging to the NHLPA, for trips to such places as London, Zurich, Frankfurt and Bombay
- Stole money from the five Canada Cup tournaments he organized, and embezzled money from the NHLPA by telephoning \$500,000 in claims for such things as theatre and bullet tickets "belonging to the World Hockey team tournament, gifts for corporate officials, club parties for Canada on political and political figures, paid and no trips and for rental fees on properties he owned
- Wrongfully used NHLPA money between 1980 and 1991 by loaning millions to his friends and business associates while receiving benefits from these transactions
- Took kickbacks on disability insurance he bought for the NHLPA
- Interfered with witnesses before the grand jury, in part by using one witness to destroy documents of a company called All Canada Sports Productions Ltd., a company that one of his business



• **Embezzled or the benefit of his power he represented 350 athletes and was more famous than most of his clients**

NHLPA about his unlawful activities

Of all the charges, the most serious was racketeering. What that means, said U.S. attorney Donald Stern, is that Eagleson in a series of years his position as executive director of the union and chief negotiator for veteran NHL players "for the purpose of acquiring personal wealth and profits." Under U.S. law, a racketeering conviction can bring a jail term of up to 30 years and a fine of \$340,000. The U.S. goes on to say it is also seeking to make Eagleson forfeit \$27 million in other costs or assets, an amount roughly equivalent to the NHLPA funds that prosecutors say the former hockey czar used for his own purposes. Although the U.S. attorney's office said that a former member stated that Eagleson was lying to Boston from Toronto, his lawyer, Jeremiah O'Sullivan, declared his client innocent. Dismissing the charges as "unsubstantiated," he also told reporters they were a rebirth of stories "which have been circulated in the press for a number

of years." O'Sullivan also told Atlantic that he will challenge the authority of the U.S. courts to try a Canadian citizen for activities that occurred largely in Canada. "Most of the charges involve his role as the executive director of the National Hockey League Players' Association, a Canadian labor organization. There are serious questions about whether the United States government has jurisdiction over him or over the charges."

Stern, however, said that the justice department was not anticipating any problems in bringing Eagleson to Boston for trial. In addition, experts unconnected with the case say that it is not difficult to try Canadian citizens in the United States on such charges. "The Canada-U.S. border is pretty porous," said Toronto criminal lawyer Clayton Kelly, "and relatively few people successfully avoid extradition."

Eagleson's fall from grace began in 1980 when Brewer and a number of other retired players recreated Eagleson's lawyer and player agent Bob Winter to help them try to remove him as head of the NHLPA. Winter and another agent, Los Angeles-based Ron Selzer, returned to their status and immediately filed a complaint against Eagleson—which he dismissed.

By then, Eagleson had become as famous as his clients, men like Bobby Orr, Darryl Sittler, Larry McDonald and Mike Palminteri. And like for "The Eagle" was good. As an agent, he represented nearly 300 professional athletes. He also ran a thriving law practice, moved into a range of real businesses and had extensive real estate holdings. Although his parents had immigrated to Canada from Northern Ireland without a stake in 1930, three years before his birth, Eagleson was a multimillionaire by the mid-1980s, with an impressive house in Toronto's Rosedale district and a sprawling country home on the shores of Lake Simcoe. Appointed to the Order of Canada, he moved in powerful circles with such men as former prime minister Brian Mulroney and John Turner, Supreme Court Justice John Sopinka, former Supreme Court judge William (Budd) Estey and Roy McMurtry, formerly Canada's high commissioner in London and now a senior Ontario judge. Many told Mulroney last week that the charges against him seemed to be "all smoke and mirrors until it comes down to what I don't understand why this is taking so long to prosecute. Nobody ever came to me to ask me anything. And what are they doing prosecuting him for things that happened up here?"

As Eagleson's large and famous guests, retired Hall of Famers told Winter and Selzer how they were struggling to make ends meet on storage payments despite Eagleson's boasts that he had negotiated an excellent pension deal for them. Gordie Howe, a 26-year veteran, was collecting \$12,000 a year. Bobby Hall, with 16 years, was getting \$10,000 and \$15,000 with 35 years in the plan was getting \$14,000. Other players, such as Jimmy Harrison, who had been injured out of the game early because of nervous injuries, discovered the disability insurance they bought through Eagleson was of no use to them.

On Jan. 15, 1990, Winter sent a formal complaint about Eagleson to the Law Society of Upper Canada, following up the next day with a complaint to Metro Toronto police. He also contacted the "Inquiry" The Law Society issued the investigation in Toronto lawyer Thomas Lockwood who, for four years, has been assisting reporters that he is looking into the allegations. The police told Winter they were wary for the Law Society's report before they undertake an investigation. "After a year and a half, I gave up," said Winter. "I wrote to the federal authorities in the United States and they referred it to the department of justice."

Over the FBI and officials from the department of labor got their hands on Winter's documentation, they started to build their own case against Eagleson. A year later, U.S. authorities convened a grand jury to determine if there was enough evidence to proceed with charges. For the past two years, it had heard from a number of witnesses, including hockey agents Bobby Orr, Wayne Gretzky and Tony Esposito, along with former NHL president John Ziegler, Sam Simpson, formerly an Eagleson employee and one of his closest confidants, also involved and is now expected to help the prosecution with its case.

Even Eagleson's Toronto tutors, Marty Abramson, was subpoenaed and spent two days before the grand jury. Can Nattie, another Toronto tutor, also testified. Why the interest in tutors? Because Eagleson was once a partner in Abramson's exclusive men's clothing shop, Marty's Custom Clothing. Both Abramson and Nattie signed letters to Canada Cup contracts far from players and clubs.

While the Americans dig away at the allegations, Canada police did nothing. When the FBI approached the RCMP for help last year, their welcome was lukewarm at best. Only after intense media pressure did the RCMP finally begin its own investigation a year after Springing its reporters last week. Stern acknowledged the help of a number of police forces, including Scotland Yard, but insisted any mention of Canadian police.

Winter, meanwhile, was critical of the Canadian investigations into the matter. "I am embarrassed to be a Canadian and even more embarrassed to be a Canadian of a law society as light of the Ontario law society's failure to investigate this matter properly." But it was thinking of Bob Winter's determination and of the plight of old comrades like Jimmy Harrison that made Brewer so fearful in the courtroom. "Rick was maligned and vilified in the press for years," said Brewer. "And Jimmy Harrison was charged out of his disabled pay insurance. He's crippled today and he is not moving." Now, inevitably, he and hundreds of others who evoked their lives in Canada's sport will have to await the verdict of an American court.



Eagleson (third from left) with Team Canada players in 1980; charges

With GREGORY SCHWARTZ in Boston

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Who's hot, who's not



BACKSTAGE OTTAWA

BY ANTHONY WILSON-SMITH

It has days on one of Pierre Trudeau's old advisers, Jean Chretien took pride in how infrequently he and Trudeau spoke with each other. One day in the 1970s, Chretien recalled recently, Trudeau expressed concern that since Chretien had taken over a portfolio more than a year earlier, he had not asked for a single meeting to discuss potential problems. "But Prime Minister," Chretien told Trudeau, "you put me in cabinet to solve problems, not create them. If I don't have any, I won't bother you."

As Prime Minister, Chretien has held to that philosophy. He's not for the most part, happy to let ministers define policies and to step in only when problems appear. The best example of his governing style came before Finance Minister Paul Martin's Feb. 22 budget, other than asking for regular progress reports, the Prime Minister became involved only in the final stages. That leadership style encourages innovation and allows strong ministers to flourish. The flip side is that without close supervision, weak ministers make for weak policy.

Already it is clear who is hot and who is not in cabinet. The one truly indispensable figure is Martin. He appears likely to follow his prime minister as becoming a later-day C.D. Howe, playing a key role in almost all aspects of government policy. A close second is Jeanne, Rousseau's Minister Lloyd Austin, who, as a clear, but not unduly and the will to carry out the numerous task of reshaping the country's social programs. Other early success: International Trade Minister MacLaren and Justice Minister Allan Rock, who have adapted immediately and easily to cabinet life.

Seven ministers who were expected to be stars lack a sense of direction. Into

that category fall Interprovincial Affairs Minister Marcel Masse, in deputy Minister John Mackay and Sheila Copps in her capacity as environment minister. It's not that they're doing anything particularly wrong; it's more that they haven't done anything noteworthy yet. Copps, who is valuable enough in her role as deputy prime minister, across her more enchanted by the life from her responsibilities. Chretien's Foreign Affairs Minister Andre Dussault, among the most pariahs of political creatures, looks uncomfortable in the striped pinstripe world of diplomatic circles.

Some ministers are handicapped because they face problems out of their own making, or portfolios in which it is difficult to clear. Here, after all, do you make a public mark as a revenue minister (David Anderson), housing minister (Stéphane Gosselin) or Treasury Board president (Glen Clark)?

David Collette must oversee the dismantling of much of his delivery department. Dato Fishman's Minister Ivan Tuban faced with a dying in Quebec. Brian Atkin's Minister Dan Ivin is learning that advising ministers among

native groups is no different. —...well, doing the same among other Canadians.

Finally, some ministers appear uncertain, or out of their depth. Health Minister Ducek Martin's muddling of the tobacco tax debate makes it unlikely that she will survive the first cabinet shuffle. Natural Resources Minister Anne McLellan is uncomfortable in her portfolio but bright enough to deserve a second chance elsewhere. The first cabinet shuffle, likely later this year, will provide two names whose appearances in cabinet are only a matter of time: Toronto's Joe Alesandro and Vancouver's Holly Fry.



Chretien, from top left, Anwerthy, Martin, MacLaren, Rock, the current Minister. Alesandro is head-of-office approach.

WARNING SIGNS

The Supreme Court of Canada ruled that tobacco companies must adhere to federal legislation requiring them to place stark new health warnings on cigarette packages by September. The warnings will be more prominent than existing ones, covering 25 per cent of a cigarette package. They will say for the first time that smoking is addictive, and will address the cancer directly by saying that smoking could kill "you." Geoffrey Mahood, executive director of the Non-Smokers' Rights Association, said the new warnings "will make tobacco packaging disgusting throughout the world." Tobacco companies said they were disappointed with the ruling.

A TIMELY LEAK

A senior federal official confirmed that a public servant had leaked news of Canada's plan to withdraw from the space station program to the U.S. space agency early in several days before it was to be announced in the Feb. 22 federal budget. Canada decided to stay with the space program after President Bill Clinton urged Prime Minister Jean Chretien to reconsider in two separate phone calls in the week leading up to the budget.

CUTTING THE 'RAT LINE'

After complaints that it was promoting police state tactics, New Brunswick's Liberal government dropped plans for a so-called rat line—a toll-free telephone number that people could call to report suspected tax evaders. The proposal was included in the province's Feb. 19 spending budget as a way of combating the underground economy.

SUPPORTING RODRIGUEZ

Three out of four Conservative support group activists reacted for fearfully at polls, according to an Angus Reid-Stratford News poll conducted shortly after the widely publicized death of Ben Rodriguez on Feb. 12. Rodriguez, who suffered from an incurable nervous disorder, died with the assistance of a doctor two months after the Supreme Court of Canada rejected his challenge to the law that restricts such an action to be criminal.

SASKATCHEWAN KUDOS

An American publication, *Places Rated Attractive*, declared Saskatchewan the most capital of North America. Saskatoon placed first out of 240 cities, based on how well its public libraries are used, while Cleveland, Ohio, came second. Regina, which placed fourth, was the only other Canadian city in the top 10.

Canada NOTES



DONNING THE COLORS: To promote the fact that English will host the 1996 Olympic Cup, Prime Minister Jean Chretien broke up a green football jersey, while Saskatchewan Premier Roy Romanow looks on. The politicians met near the end of Chretien's three-day tour through the Prairie provinces, where he delivered his government's Feb. 22 budget.

A soldier's story

At three weeks at the center of a sensational court trial, the Elton Kyle Brown took to the witness stand to defend himself against charges of torture and murder related to the killing of a Somali teenager, said the Canadian Airborne Regiment London colon and commander, Brown discussed the events of March 16, 1993, as the Canadian base near the Somali town of Belet Huen where, according to earlier witnesses, the Edmonton-born private participated in the beating of Anwar. Spending in a flat, even voice, Brown admitted punching the 19-year-old Anwar and kicking him a couple of times. But he blamed another soldier—who the court named a partial publication has—for torturing the victim, Anwar, with a notepad and a metal pipe, and blaming the teenager's first with a dig

er such Brown also testified that the other soldier told him that his platoon commander, Capt. Michael Sack, had ordered that the prisoner be "roughed up."

The 25-year-old Brown, who faces a maximum life sentence if convicted of second-degree murder and torture said the court that the other soldier said he was asked to kill Anwar. Brown testified that he did not believe his Brown also admitted that he and the other soldier took turns peeing for gruesome photographs with the wounded and beaten Anwar on the night of his death. Brown said he did so because "I couldn't believe what was going on and I didn't think anyone else would believe it either. I was shocked, really."

Brown's court trial is expected to end by the middle of March. Six other Canadian soldiers face charges related to Anwar's death.

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PROGNOSIS: POOR

The scene is a middle-American living room in the evening. In a rooming room, a middle-class couple approaching middle age. Harry, carrying a basketball, enters with teenage son Matt. "Good game!" says Louie, seated on the sofa. "Oh well," Matt replies. "I let him have Harry playfully shove the ball towards Matt and sends him out of the room with, 'Time to let the brooks, bud.' Then, closing at the book Louie is reading, Harry says: 'Health-care reform again, huh?'"

Louie hands Harry the book. "This plan forces us to buy our insurance through their new, mandatory government health plan."

Louie: "Another billion-dollar bureaucracy."

Harry tosses the book down. "You know, we just don't need government monopolies to get health coverage to everyone."

Louie: "Congress can fix that."

Harry: "And they will if we used their own message."

During the TV commercial, which has aired repeatedly across the United States this winter and made Harry and Louie celebrities, a close-up shows the target of their protest, President Bill Clinton's proposed Health Security Act. The 36-second spot ends with a graphic showing a skeleton. The text says: "The questions plaguing by that message, and other ads in a similar vein, have not only stalled Clinton's bid to introduce universal health insurance but cast doubts among his allies that the President can forge a compromise to solve what even his supporters agree is a national health-care crisis."

Harry and Louie are creation of the Washington-based Health Insurance Association of America, which represents about 270 companies. Their \$10.5-million campaign is reinforced by ads on about 300,000 radios, according to campaign spokesman Don DiPietro. The average reflects the insurance industry's opposition to Clinton's proposal for a system of "managed competition," in which new regulated purchasing cooperatives (alliances) would work to hold down the price of premiums paid by employers, employees and government. The industry's campaign has been attacked by both the President and Hillary Clinton, who denounces it as "a device to obstruct and delay reform period and to raise the status quo." But by the time the latest blast of commercial

Vocal lobby groups stall President Clinton's bid to offer affordable health insurance



Bill Clinton, hospital emergency room (opposite) crisis

reinforced approval of the program in general. But by last week, the life had turned. As the Clinton administration sat still in several congressional subcommittees, even his allies acknowledged that would not survive intact, if at all. While, say some observers, the confusion comes by critics, and by a jumble of competing proposals, there is to destroy any prospect of meaningful reform in the near future.

Clinton himself remained optimistic, at least publicly. "I think we'll get it done," he insisted after a late February Gallup survey recorded almost a dead heat: 46 per cent of respondents favored his plan, while 48 per cent opposed it. Only a month earlier, Gallup found 57 per cent in favor and 38 per cent opposed. Clinton blamed the shift on the "millions and millions and millions of dollars that have been spent by interest groups to trash the plan."

Clinton's plan ran into trouble right after he took Congress on Jan. 25 that he would veto any bill that fails to "insure every American private health-care insurance." One by one, key groups went public with criticism. The American Medical Association, warning that the President's plan would put medical students in the hands of business and business administrators, launched a \$2.2-million advertising

campaign last month; they seemed to have accomplished their mission.

If the job was not done by the TV couple alone, there was widespread agreement in Washington that work that real-life critics have done proved instructive of the Clinton plan. The 1,380-page legislation, the centerpiece of his reform policies, was drafted by a White House task force led by Hillary Clinton. The President unveiled it in September in the fulfillment of his promise to deliver affordable private medical and hospital insurance for all. That included

the estimated 34 million people who unlike the Harris and Louises are shut out of the system because they cannot afford insurance, are denied coverage because of prior chronic ailments, lose their coverage when they lose their jobs or exceed a limit in benefits.

Clinton says that his plan will not only provide lifetime coverage for all Americans, life insurers that it will also mean saving costs. Currently \$1 out of every \$7 spent in the United States goes to health care; a heavier burden than in any other industrial country (Canada's Medicare system absorbs \$1 out of every \$10 in national income). For months after Clinton presented his plan, lead pollsters showed that although many Americans did not fully grasp an details, substantial

majority approved of the program in general. But by last week, the life had turned. As the Clinton administration sat still in several congressional subcommittees, even his allies acknowledged that would not survive intact, if at all. While, say some observers, the confusion comes by critics, and by a jumble of competing proposals, there is to destroy any prospect of meaningful reform in the near future.

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VITAL SIGNS

A recent five-year study by health-care professionals found that Americans spend far more per capita than Canadians on hospital care—even though Canadians start emergency visits more often, are more likely to be admitted to treatment and, once admitted, tend to stay there longer.

■ CANADA ■ UNITED STATES



Source: J. B. Robinson et al., *Perinatal, New England Journal of Medicine*

One reason for the discrepancy is that the American health industry incurs higher overhead costs.

Source: J. B. Robinson et al., *Perinatal, New England Journal of Medicine*

campaign that asked: "Would you rather trust your life to an MD or an MBA?" The Business Roundtable, consisting of 300 top executives, endorsed a far more modest reform plan sponsored by Democratic congressman Jim Cooper of Tennessee. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce joined the National Association of Manufacturers and the National Federation of Independent Business in opposition. Business, and many doctors, balked at the Clinton bill's prior controls and its requirement that employers pay 96 per cent of employee insurance premiums.

While business steps up its attacks, other interest groups are lining up on the sidelines. The conservative Christian Alliance has launched a \$10-million TV advertising and lobbying campaign against the Clinton bill. American rights groups are waging a \$2.5-million campaign insisting that abortion should be covered by insurance, as Clinton has promised. Abortion opponents initially

blasted. The American Hospital Association, representing 4,500 hospitals, endorsed Clinton's idea of universal coverage but also Cooper's no-entitlement approach.

Not all is gloom for the White House and its staff of ad tacticians bled up in what has become known as the "Health Care War Room." Clinton has the backing of organized labor and such corporate giants as Chrysler Corp. and American Airlines. And the biggest lobby of all, the 34 million-member

American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), supports the Clinton bill "as the strongest and most realistic of the plans on the table now," according to lobbyist John Raftery said last week. AARP drew out its support by the Clinton is an supporter of Clinton-style government reform.

Its advocates include four doctors' groups with a combined membership of almost 100,000 including the American College of Surgeons and a Canadian-style health plan introduced by Democratic Representative Jim McDermott has 92 in sponsors in the 435-seat House of Representatives more than any other proposal. But even supporters of the McDermott bill can

only that some stand a chance of passage without congressional support.

What concerns such reformers is that Congress may be unable to produce a suitable hybrid law. That seems unlikely in a nation that took its first firm steps into national health insurance in 1965—two years before Clinton—with programs designed to protect senior citizens, children, disabled people and low-income adults. Still, says the AARP's Raftery: "There is a real fear that we could end up getting no action this year." But there is also awareness that a congressional election year (see Democrats over the prospect of going to the voters in November) could be a hindrance to health care. The politics of survival may yet prove to be the biggest factor Clinton's last, best hope. □

REPORT FROM WASHINGTON

BY CARL MALIKINS

Armed and dangerous

Jewish settlements pose a threat to lasting peace

David Aaralid was one of 18 Jewish settlers ordered by the Israeli government to surrender their guns last week. The Russian immigrant, a great nephew of communist revolutionary Leon Trotsky, lives in the West Bank settlement of Tzipori, a hub of the radical right Kibbutz Leumi movement. He was also a friend of Ben-Zion Goldstein, the Israeli-born Jewish doctor whose murder at last 30 Masada in a Hebron mosque on Feb. 23 sparked Arab riots across the occupied territories last week and threatened to unravel last September's Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement. "Goldstein was a good doctor and a good Jew," said Aaralid bluntly. "The massacre



West Bank settlers 'waiting for a bus to explode'

only added to his stature." Aaralid shares Goldstein's uncompromising views of Jews and Muslims, the biblical land now known as the West Bank, where some 250,000 Jewish settlers live, mostly among nearly two million Palestinians. "The Land of Israel belongs to the Jews," he said. "A grey (non-Jew) can live here, provided he fulfills certain conditions. The Arabs don't fulfil those conditions. Therefore, we must throw them out."

Israeli security services estimate that there are at least 30,000 Jewish settlers like Aaralid who are armed legally with rifles

and handguns, many of them well-trained private officers in the Israeli Defense Force. Of course, half are considered hard-core militants. An independent expert on Israel's left, all right, Ehud Sprinzak, puts the number of extremists much lower. The political science professor at Jerusalem's Hebrew University says there are no more than 1,000 activists in the Kach movement, the anti-Arab group founded by the late American Rabbi Meir Kahane and to which Goldstein belonged. In Sprinzak's view, "Even a movement of a few dozen determined men can cause enormous damage."

Israeli government leaders reached new heights of rhetoric in their condemnation of extremist settlers last week. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin called them a "foreign implant," adding: "You are a poisonous weed. Since Judaism wants you out." And Foreign Minister Shimon Peres called them "Nazi." Still, they refused demands by Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) chairman Yasser Arafat to disarm all Jewish settlers and dismantle some of the 344 settlements that he called a "time bomb." Instead, Rabin ordered that 38 civilians be arrested and five deported. At the same time, he invited the pro-settlement Likud (Conservative) party to join his Labor-led coalition government to bolster its one-seat majority in the 120-seat Knesset, or parliament.

These actions merely emboldened Jewish extremists and incited angry Palestinians to more violence. Since the Hebron massacre, at least 26 Arabs were killed and more than 400 wounded in clashes with Israeli soldiers throughout the West Bank and Gaza. Violence also erupted among the 350,000 Arabs in Israel proper, from Be'er Sheva in the south to Nitzan in the north, as the month unfolded. Baruch Maron, the wanted leader of the Kach movement, taunted the Israeli government from hiding, saying that the Hebron massacre had strengthened his group. "There are a lot of people who think what Goldstein did," Maron told journalists in a telephone interview. "Kach is going to be stronger and stronger, to be active. We are



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And it comes with a powerful 486SX/25 processor and includes an extraordinarily sharp 14" SVGA display.

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many different models we make, each one has to be aggressively priced to continue the ProLinea tradition. Which is good math no matter how you calculate it. For complete information on the Compaq ProLinea PCs, call us at 1-800-248-6553. **COMPAQ**

LOONS TAKE FLIGHT

With less than two hours to go until the deadline for contributions to registered retirement savings plans (RRSPs) last Tuesday night, the head office of Algonquin Investments in Toronto was buzzing with activity. A steady flow of investors were arriving to make last-minute contributions. Although Algonquin is best known for the exceptional performance of its Canadian stock funds, manager Fred Johnston says that almost all of the investors there were putting at least some money into foreign stock and bond mutual funds. "I'm doing it for the growth," explained Sen Givens, who sold his contributions between Canadian and Asian stock funds. "I don't know for sure what's going to happen with the Toronto market this year, but I know what's going to happen in Asia." Another investor, Adam Grandkowski, said that he added a North American equity fund to his Canadian and resource equity funds. "I wanted a North American fund," he added, "but they didn't have one."

Canadian, who just a few years ago were regarded as timid investors who acted for the safety of bank deposits, are suddenly becoming aggressive—some say a little too aggressive—global risk-takers. According to Statistics Canada, Canadians bought a record \$12.8 billion worth of foreign stocks and funds in 1993, almost twice the amount they bought the year before. The popularity of foreign investments is so great that last year Canadians actually spent more buying foreign stock mutual funds (\$7.7 billion) than they did buying Canadian equity funds (\$7.4 billion). And a small, but growing number of wealthy

Canadian capital is flowing into foreign markets as investors tap into global growth

Canadians are going even farther and moving their assets out of Canada into offshore tax havens like the Bahamas. Said Patrick Ireland, manager of investment funds with Investors Group Inc. in Winnipeg: "The two nations I hear most about from clients are the tremendous performance of the Asia Pacific markets, coupled with concern about the Canadian dollar."

Many of the reasons behind the shift to foreign investments are positive. Technology and market developments have advanced to the point where even small investors can easily and cheaply buy foreign securities. Also, the government changed the rules sever- al years ago to allow individual stocks and pension funds to gradually raise their foreign content from the previous limit of 10 per cent. Both kinds of funds can now have as much as 50 per cent of their portfolios invested in foreign securities.

But at the same time, a combination of lower interest rates and a number

of years of spectacular stock market returns in Canada—contrasting with high returns from investments in other countries—have also encouraged Canadians to diversify. "For the past 15 years, the Canadian stock market has underperformed the world's markets," said John Simpson, president of Fidelity Investments Canada Ltd. in Toronto whose Boston-based parent is the largest mutual fund company in the world. "It's obvious that there are better places to be than Canada, and global diversification is a way to do it."

The Canadian stock market represents only three per cent of global stock market assets and it is largely made up of natural resource companies. Simpson says that investors who want to buy shares in other kinds of companies, especially those that are expected to drive the new information age economy—entertainment, pharmaceutical, computer and biotechnology companies, to name just a few—have to look far from its shores.

Aside from these investment performance considerations, some investors are also concerned by the state of Canada's economy and political situation. Said Lloyd Atkinson,

chief economist with the Bank of Montreal: "I don't want to be alarmist, but I'm hearing more and more investors expressing worries about the Canadian dollar." Indeed, Canada's growing government debt and Quebec's uncertain political future both have the potential to cause the dollar to plunge. Such threats are giving some Canadians another reason to sell their Canadian dollar investments. "If they call it right," said Atkinson, "the Canadian dollar depreciates by, say, 30 per cent, they get the equivalent of an immediate 30-percent return just by being out of the dollar."

That strategy, however, is not without very real hazards. "It's risky," said Sherry Cooper, chief economist at the investment firm of Borel & Co. in Toronto. By investing in countries, particularly volatile emerging market countries like those in South

Trade: technology makes it easier to buy and sell foreign securities

America and parts of Asia, Canadian investors are exposing their investments to market, economic and political risks that they know much less about than those they face in Canada. "There are the usual market risks that go along with any stock investment," said Cooper. "And they also have currency risks." If the currencies of the emerging countries they invest in fall, their investments also lose value.

Regardless of the complexity of the risks, some Canadians are worried enough about the country's economic condition and their increasing tax burden that they are taking even more drastic action and moving out of the country completely. Ron Truss, partner-in-charge of personal advisory services at the accounting and consulting firm KPMG Peat Marwick Thorne in Toronto, says that he is seeing an increasing number of clients who are considering that option. "In the past five

years or so, as the tax burden has increased, people who would never have thought of it 10 years ago are now considering it, and dumping it."

Still, investment experts suggest that the more sophisticated-looking investment strategies are healthy. Fidelity's Simpson says that it reflects a feeling among Canadians that they have to take more responsibility for managing their money at a time when the government's so-

cial safety net is strained by a swollen debt load. "They know that they don't have much control over the big stuff," said Simpson, "so they had better pay attention to their own investments and make sure that they get the most out of whatever money they do have." Jan Russell, who is vice-president of capital markets at the Investment Dealers Association of Canada in Toronto mentions investment trends, says that the foreign investment phenomenon is not unique to Canada. Investors in other countries are also showing a similar interest in offshore investing. "Portfolio diversification is a good thing," said Russell, "although I'd agree that it is a big leap to go from investing in stocks [managing several million certificates] to investing in other kinds."

The current enthusiasm for the more speculative foreign markets puzzles some observers. Economist Atkinson pointed out that a flood of foreign money was actually responsible for Poland's stock market surging to the best performance in the world in 1993, even though the country's post-Communist economy still has many profound problems. "When the Polish stock market is up 700 per cent in a year," said Atkinson, "I have to wonder whether the world economy is getting a little out of whack." For now, however, it appears that investments—like growth—look good on the other side of the world.

ROSINDA DALLGISH



Business NOTES



BONFIRE OF THE FACES: Philippine customs officials burned more than 6,000 counterfeit designer leather bags and purses in Manila. The items, allegedly manufactured in Korea and bearing phony logos from such renowned European design houses as Gucci, Dainoff and Louis Vuitton, were destroyed for violations of trademark laws.

A hostile hookup

Rogers Communications Inc. of Toronto appears to have struck a strategic blow at its telecom target, Maclean's (MSE) Ltd. Yesterday, Rogers announced that it has concluded an agreement in principle with Shaw Communications Inc. of Edmonton, to exchange cable television franchises if Rogers succeeds in its \$5.6-billion bid for Maclean's. Shaw is currently trying to build a coalition to counter—and improve upon—Rogers' bid at \$2.7 billion for the diverse communications holdings, which include cable, publishing and printing. Shaw is believed to be among the companies that bid has approached to join such a consortium. As part of its agreement with Rogers, Shaw has now undertaken a probe to bid for MSE assets directly or to form a joint venture with Rogers. It is part of Rogers' stated long-term strategy to reconfigure the cable industry with fewer, larger regional players.

Yet to be considered—until mid-September—Earlier in the week, Ontario Court Justice James Parley dismissed an application by Rogers Communications Inc. that would have forced MSE to show Rogers could still succeed in its bid for MSE's holdings for the company. Parley said that MSE's directors are clearly trying to "maximize shareholder value" in their attempts to hold off Rogers.

The proposed swap between Rogers and Shaw, which would require approval from all regulators at the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission, would allow the two companies to consolidate their cable assets and strengthen their respective presence in their chosen markets. It is part of Rogers' stated long-term strategy to reconfigure the cable industry with fewer, larger regional players.

SIGNS OF LIFE

Statistics Canada reported that the economy expanded by 2.4 per cent last year, matching its performance in 1989, the year before the economy plunged into a recession. Much of that growth occurred in the final three months of 1990, when the nation's gross domestic product, after adjusting for inflation, climbed by 0.9 per cent. However, Canada's performance in the fourth quarter of 1990 was only half the 1.7-per-cent increase in output in the United States during the same period.

BLACK INVADERS CHICAGO

Conrad Black is adding the Chicago Sun-Times, the city's largest circulation daily newspaper in the United States, to his growing stable of newspapers. Haringer Inc., Black's Vancouver-based holding company, agreed to purchase the Sun-Times Co., which publishes the Sun-Times and 52 weekly and biweekly papers distributed in the Chicago area, for \$248 million. Haringer's other holdings include London's venerable Daily Telegraph, The Jerusalem Post and dozens of publications in Canada and the United States.

HYDRO DEAL UNDER FIRE

Geoff Friesen, the chairman of New York State's Power Authority, said a committee of the state's legislature that a 20-year, \$6-billion contract to buy electricity from Hydro Quebec should be cancelled. The deal was scheduled to take effect in 1996. But Friesen said there is no longer enough demand for the power, and added that there are "environmental concerns" about Quebec's giant James Bay hydroelectric project.

DEVELOPER ON THE ROPE

Belonging Cadillac Finance Inc., which owns Toronto's Casino Casca, Vancouver's Pacific Centre and 60 other malls and office buildings across Canada, announced that it will no longer use income from its profitable holdings to pay off debts and mortgages linked to troubled properties. The company, which is struggling under a \$3-billion debt load, said that the move will result in delays in last payments on at least six properties.

CHOMPING AT THE BIT

Argentine President Carlos Menem said that he is optimistic that Argentina could join the North American Free Trade Agreement as early as June. But U.S. officials, who met with Menem and Argentine trade negotiators in Madrid, said that assisting the trade deal will likely take at least two years.

900 MHz breakthrough!

New technology launches wireless speaker revolution...

Reconex develops breakthrough technology which transmits stereo sound through walls, ceilings and floors up to 150 feet.

By Charles Axtell

If you had to move just one new product "this week" (inventive of the press), what would you choose? Well, at the recent International Consumer Electronics Show and the Best of Show Awards, you would have to move closed again because the new 900 MHz technology allows



stereo signals to travel over distances of 150 feet or more through walls, ceilings and floors without losing sound quality.

100 feet range through walls!

Reconex gives you the freedom to sit in the room wherever you want. Your stereo is no longer limited to the room you have it in. With the new technology, you can listen to your TV, stereo or CD player while you relax anywhere in the room, even in another room. And with Reconex technology, you don't have to be in the room with the system to get your stereo to 100 feet range.

The technology and system have been used in hotels, homes and offices. One hotel has used Reconex to provide the sound of its entire hotel.



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Reconex wireless speaker design. Replaces your home with sound.

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**NEWFOUNDLAND
& LABRADOR**

The four-day week

Thousands of Canadians are switching to a shorter work week. But will it help cure the unemployment crisis?

At first, Bell Canada technicians Dan Legrow says he was upset about losing \$80 from his weekly paycheck. Under his union's new two-year contract, which took effect in January, Legrow and 33,500 other Bell Canada technicians and technicians in Ontario and Quebec now work a 36-hour week over four days instead of 38 hours over five days. As well, they must take five days of unpaid leave per year. Their union, the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers' Union, only agreed to the callback after the company threatened to lay off up to 2,000 of their members. Despite the 7.5-per-cent cut in pay, Legrow, 44, who installs computer data lines and circuits for businesses in the Toronto area, says that he likes the extra day off. "I was waiting to get the bathroom cleaned," he says, "and I've got that done now." Legrow, who still expects to earn \$47,000 this year, has worked for Bell for 20 years and says that other long-serving employees who have senior jobs should make sacrifices to help younger workers through hard times. "I see it as a solution for the unemployment problem," Legrow says. "If we could all work less, then maybe everybody would get working."

Later a chorused chorus of union leaders and other social activists, the four-day work week is becoming a reality for thousands of Canadians. But unlike the shift from the five-and-a-half-day to five-day week in the boom decade that followed the Second World War, most Canadians now working reduced hours are also coming less in a result. Like Legrow, many of them are under economic pressure from employers who are threatening layoffs unless they work shorter hours for less pay. Others, particularly young parents who cannot afford to raise a family on just one salary, are cutting back or rearranging their work week to spend more time with their children.

But at the same time, thousands of other Canadians in booming sectors like the auto industry are working near record amounts of overtime. Some experts argue that shortening the work week for those who already have jobs might at least provide some work for Canada's 1.5 million unemployed. Human Resources Minister Lloyd Axworthy also appears to be intrigued by the idea. Last month, as part of his sweeping revitalization of Canada's workplace law, he established a new member panel of business and union leaders, including Quebec's Co. of Canada Ltd. chairman Jan. Grier and Ontario Labour Congress president Bob Wilson, to examine the issue of work time and the distribution of work and report back to him by September. "It is clear that there are too few jobs," said Axworthy. "However, the challenges lie not only in the number of jobs, but in their distribution."



Legrow: "If we could all work less, then maybe everybody would get working."

In considering a shorter work week as one way of fighting unemployment, Axworthy is in tune with his counterparts in the world's other leading industrialized nations. The issue of work time will be one of the main topics discussed at a special summit on the unemployment crisis within the Group of Seven leading industrial nations to be hosted by U.S. President Bill Clinton in Detroit on March 15. Previous Ministers Paul Martin, Industry Minister John Manley and Trade Minister Roy MacLaren are scheduled to accompany Axworthy.

Certainly, the unemployment problem in Canada is serious—and so far, traditional tactics for combating it have not succeeded. Statistics Canada declared the recession officially over in January, 1993, but the national unemployment rate remains stubbornly high at 11.4 per cent. As well, many companies are still slashing their payrolls in response to technological change and intensifying domestic and international competition. As a result, most forecasters say that unemployment will remain at double-digit levels even as a necessary gain in manufacturing, 30,000 jobs, and the provinces and cities all weighed down with budget deficits and are in no position to stimulate job creation either by increasing spending or cutting taxes. In his first budget last month, Finance Minister Paul Martin announced a major new job creation initiative and he refused even to mention unemployment.

Yet at the same time as 1.5 million Canadians are looking for work, many of the 32.5 million people with jobs are working harder than ever. Officially, the length of the average scheduled work week for Canadians employed in manufacturing—which traditionally has set the pattern for other sectors—is just over 38 hours, and has changed little since the late 1960s. But a Statistics Canada survey published last year estimated that in any given week, 800,000 Canadians work overtime for pay, putting in an average of eight extra hours.

So far, efforts by governments to save jobs by reducing costs through a shorter work week, both among their own employees and in the private sector, have proved to be controversial at best. In the largest such initiative, Canada Premier Bob Rae's 1991 government promised a storm of protest from more than 600,000 unionized provincial and municipal civil servants by passing its Social Contract Act last July. It called for a three-year wage freeze and requires employees earning more than \$30,000 annually to take up to 12 unpaid



days off each year. The alternative, Rae argued, would have been to lay off up to 40,000 people.

In Ottawa, one option Axworthy is considering is expanding a small federal work sharing program that pays workers unemployment insurance benefits for one day each week if they voluntarily cut back to four days a week. Aimed at small employers facing temporary financial problems, the program was introduced in 1982. It pays workers benefits totaling 53 per cent of their insurable earnings, to a maximum of \$80, for the fifth day of the week, but even in 1991, the last year in the program, payouts totalled \$110 million. Last year, that declined to about \$66 million. Both employers and employees enrolled in the program have consistently rated it highly. However, the department's study of the 177,000 workers who passed through the program from 1989 to 1991, revealed some flaws. For 20 per cent of those workers, it only delayed permanent layoffs for a few weeks or months.

Regardless of the approach, the idea of shortening the work week to alleviate unemployment is hardly new. Union leaders have argued for a shorter work week without any reduction in pay, in both good and bad times, since the late 19th century. During the Great Depression of the 1930s and other slowdowns, they billed it as a job creation strategy. But according to Desmond Morton, a labor historian and professor of the University of Toronto's Knode College, unions have only won shorter work weeks during economic booms, not slowdowns. "Good things happen in good times," says Morton. "In bad times, people get uneasy." Morton adds that in the early stages of a recovery, employers tend to work their existing staff longer hours rather than hire more workers because they are uncertain that the upswing will last. Only when they are feeling more secure about their prospects

do they reduce hours and begin hiring again. That is precisely what has happened at Chrysler Canada Ltd.'s booming minivan plant in Windsor, Ont. Under a new contract signed with

the Canadian Auto Workers union last September, Chrysler agreed to reduce hours—and wage increases—for the 4,500 seasonal workers in the plant. It also added a third daily shift of more than 800 new assembly-line workers. In recent years, many employees in the plant have been working up to seven days a week as Chrysler struggled to fill orders. Some workers who had wanted to coast on the overtime pay, rejected the proposals for reduced hours at first. But at present, the company agreed to increase the \$20.45-an-hour wage for assembly line workers by one per cent this year, and to keep paying them for an eight-hour daily shift, rather than the 150 hours they now actually work, to accommodate the third shift.

As well, because the plant has moved to seven-days-a-week, 24-hour production, some of the new arrangements for skilled trades personnel who repair and maintain equipment in the plant are even better. Says Janice LeJeune, a 26-year-old minivan worker who earns \$21.74 an hour, now works 36 hours a week spread out over five days even though he gets paid for 32 hours. Prior to the new contract, he frequently worked six days a week. "You start to burn out after a while," he says.

Quite apart from whether reducing or rearranging the work week will make a dent in their bottom line, many employers are at least playing the issue because of employee stress in running a fairly tight ship. Says LeJeune, the Bush of Montreal now has 2,500 of 28,000 employees participating in its flexible work arrangements program. Johnnie Tish, the bank's vice-president of workplace equality, says the plan grew out of a 1991 survey of employees that re-

reforms that many were leaving trouble just along the demands on their time. Under the program, any employee can propose alternative work arrangements to a supervisor—such as a four-day work week, job sharing or working at home.

For those employees with young children, just missing one day or a few hours, can make a huge difference. Suzanne McGuire, a 35-year-old project manager for the bank who supervises the installation of large new computer networks, says she came close to quitting her job last May when she lost the services of a nanny who took care of her four-year-old son. Because he was entering kindergarten, she no longer required a full-time nanny. But he had to be dropped off at a school bus at 8 in the morning, and picked up again just after 5 p.m. Since then, McGuire—dedicated to her office by computer—has worked at home for 15 hours every Monday. That allows her to arrive at 9:15 a.m. and leave at 4:00 p.m. on the four days when she goes into the office. "It was either leave the bank or come up with another arrangement," says McGuire. "It's been a lifesaver."

Despite the growing popularity of four-day or other rearranged work weeks, many employers caution that there are large regulatory hurdles that they must overcome to implement them. The most costly, according to Jason Myers, chief economist of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, are so-called payroll taxes that include employer's unemployment insurance premiums, contributions to the Canada Pension Plan and provincial worker's compensation plans, plus contributions to their own company employee benefit plans. Myers says those taxes now make up about one-fifth of an average manufacturer's worker's wage and benefit package. With those contributions are to some extent geared to wages and salaries, they are almost like fixed costs incurred the moment an employer hires another worker. And they are rising. Myers says payroll taxes have increased by almost 40 per cent since 1980. As a result, he says, it is no wonder that many employers prefer to work existing staff overtime, rather than hire another worker and pay both a new employee's wages and another set of payroll taxes.

But advocates of four-day working, including Frank Reid, a professor of economics at the University of Toronto, say that employers and governments can tie both the premiums and benefits in those programs more closely to hourly earnings, and remove some of the technical obstacles to working shorter.

Representatives of both private-sector employers and workers are gathered in conference with a four-day work in the hope that it will reduce unemployment. "I say, try it for a year," says Leo Lepore, even though the experiment is costing him money. "If they don't by people off, maybe we can all get a four-day week." But the same pay, he adds, is not the aim. That day appears to be a long way off.

JOHN DINES

Reward or sacrifice?

Europeans clash over psals to introduce a four-day week



BY BRUCE WALLACE

I was not supposed to happen this way. When British economist John Maynard Keynes gazed into the future in 1931, he forecast a 15-hour work week and a world in which "man will be freed with his real permanent problems—how to use his freedom from pressing economic cares, how to occupy the leisure which science will have won for him, to live more justly and agreeably, and well." Increasing prosperity would liberate mankind from the burden of making long hours, he predicted. People would work less, play more. And they would all be better for it.

Six decades later, the idea of abandoning the five-day work week is no longer the exclusive province of economists, as two new futurologists' shorter work hours are being proposed by politicians in France, debated in the Spanish media and on shop floors in Italy, and implemented at Volkswagen assembly plants in Germany. But the forces propelling the issue are not those envisioned by Keynes. Europe's economies are stagnant, not booming. They are in worse shape now than at any time since the Second World War, leaving

record numbers of people jobless and threatening many of the rest. Confining the work week is not intended as a reward to those who are employed, but as a desperate measure to distribute a limited number of jobs among a larger number of people.

Nailing this latest of the debate better than Volkswagen's move last November to reduce its work week from 37 hours over five days to 28 hours over four days, with an accompanying 10-per-cent reduction in gross pay. The company's workers agreed to the move only because the alternative proposed by Volkswagen's management seemed even worse: laying off 30,000 employees, almost a third of the company's German workforce. To protect jobs at a time when the country's auto industry is in a terrible slump, the workers voted for reduced hours and a millionth of a promised 3.5-per-cent wage increase this year and one per cent next. On top of that, they gave up benefits—paid holidays and break times—equivalent to 10 per cent of their incomes. "It is an historic moment," says Barbara Goldberg, an executive on the workers' council at Volkswagen's main plant in Wolfsburg, Germany. "We have shortened hours to save jobs."

Management and workers at Volkswagen

are fighting this month to finalize a schedule

Air France workers on strike last year, strains on the social fabric

ing system to implement the new arrangement. But they have already fired up a debate in Germany about whether the four-day week is a solution to spreading employment. "Volkswagen has legitimized the move and encouraged public discussion about it," says Michael Drabner, a consultant with McKinsey & Co. in Munich, who predicts the change will gain greater acceptance. "It used to be a taboo subject, but now there are articles about it in the newspapers every day."

But a debate it is. Many workers and employers, as well as a chorus of economists, argue that the four-day week is, at best, a short-term solution for companies in crisis. At worst, they regard it as a gimmick that will only worsen Europe's unemployment problem. For then imposing new rules on working hours, some experts say, governments should be trying to relax some of the rules and regulations that make labor in Europe more expensive than in any other place in the world. "The four-day week is the symptom of despair," argues David Macelet, a professor of industrial relations at the London School of Economics

"It says that there are not enough jobs to go around among many people. We should be seeking ways to expand our economies and create new jobs."

In particular, European managers are pushing for changes in the continent's rigid labor laws and agreements to allow for more flexible hours and part-time work. Throughout Europe, employers argue that generous benefits and traveled job protection clauses make it extremely risky to hire new workers, ones which business is booming. "It is very difficult to fire somebody because the courts can prevent it, and because society vilifies you for doing it," says Michael Levy, chairman of Publicis, France's second-largest advertising agency, whose clients include Unilever and Renault. "The fear of being stuck with employees you can't fire makes entrepreneurs try to get by without hiring new workers."

As a result, most of the jobs created in Europe since 1983 have been in the public sector. The Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (MCECD) says that every year from 1974 until 1988 the number of jobs in the private sec-

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for actually shrink, since then, it has recovered only slightly. Now, huge deficits are forcing governments to trim down their workforces, at a time when unemployment is widely recognized as the European Union's most pressing problem. In France, an economic powerhouse by comparison with some of its neighbors, the official unemployment rate is 12 per cent. In weaker economies like Germany, it's even higher: 18 per cent in Finland, 23 per cent in Spain. The German recovery, historically Europe's strongest, shrunk by 1.3 per cent last year. A record four million Germans are registered as unemployed—more than 10 per cent of the workforce.

What worries economists and politicians most is the severity of the EU's long-term unemployment rate: nearly half of all so-called long-term unemployed in Europe in 1991 were out of work for 12 consecutive months, compared with about six per cent in North America. It is a potentially explosive social problem, made all the more volatile by the fact that some unemployed workers are under age 25 or over 50 per cent or more in most of Europe—and as high as 30 per cent in Spain.

These strains on the social fabric make the debate over changing labor rules and practices more than an exercise in economic theory. It cuts to the heart of the kind of society Europeans hope to build for the next century. Most Europeans pride themselves on having created a different economic system from the American model, one that tempers capitalism with market forces with a social conscience. They see their generous vacation benefits, unemployment provisions and subsidized social programs, such as day care, as a way to maintain a new balance and unemployment insurance as symbols of a caring society. As New York's interview, French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur argued that those contracts had to be delicate, in spite of their costs, if Europe is to remain a political fortress against the rise of the capitalist jungle.

With rare exceptions, few politicians have the nerve to temper with those benefits. European leaders are far more likely to act like Balladur, who retreated from a confrontation with unions last November. He may be the most popular politician in France, but Balladur was not about to take on angry Air France employees who went on strike when their bosses tried to slash 4,000 of the airline's 40,000 jobs. Balladur not only intervened to avert the restructuring plan, he also fired the majority of Air France's union leaders, state-owned company who proposed the plan.

In such circumstances, the idea of instituting the four-day work is probably too revolutionary a concept. "Nobody will cut off any head money" predicts Levy. "There is nothing the French like more than talking

about innovation, but nothing they hate more than change, especially when it affects them." The resistance to the four-day work from French workers' unions leads to support that view. "We are in favor of a four-day week," says Christel Rey, an executive in the radical General Confederation of Labor, who represents so-called workers. "At least," she quickly qualifies, "we don't see it as wages." They say that the union is willing to consider some changes to working hours. "But some things are sacred. No work on Sundays," she

down to 35 hours by 1995 when it became apparent that French businesses would not be able to compete internationally unless other countries established the step.

Since then, Pierre Larramans, a Paris area aerospace consultant, has emerged as a high profile crusader for a national four-day work coupled with an average five-percent reduction in pay and less credits for companies that increase their payrolls. Claiming that his proposals would create two million jobs, he has called for a referendum next year on whether to make the switch. At the same time, Larramans is getting support from the opposition Socialists, who are desperate for policies that will help them take on the popular Raddur in next year's presidential election. Likely Socialist presidential candidate Michel Rocard has joined some leading intellectuals in suggesting that the four-day week might "jump-start" the economy. And German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who initially seemed at the idea with the admonition that Germans needed to work harder, not less, has since accepted a 16-hour paid policy.

Pushing out of a Volkswagen plant in Germany is a sacrifice few want to make.

about. "We say, 'Respect people, not capital.'"

Employers have a plan too, which is to best employees into accepting reduced work weeks, the threat of packing up and moving production elsewhere. The French subsidiary of American General, Hyster Packard, warned in 250 employees to accept a four-day work week last year by bluntly suggesting that if the proposal was rejected, the plant would relocate in Singapore.

For companies that rely on skilled workforce, such as in the auto industry, the benefits of a shorter week are obvious: it reduces their wage costs and allows them to hang on to trained employees who might otherwise have to be laid off. That saves the company from having to retrain workers when sales pick up and production increases. But from the perspective of workers themselves, the advantages are less clear. In fact, any concert of push towards establishing a four-day week might end up driving workers, either those who already have jobs against the rising number of those without—another argument for getting that social upheaval.

As a result, the four-day work week has mostly been offered as a voluntary option. France's National Assembly and Senate passed a law last year that will give companies greater flexibility to introduce new work hours, including a four-day week—provided that it is done with union approval. France has tried and failed to induce work hours before. After coming to power in 1981, the Socialists tried to force the work week to 36 hours, while keeping incomes stable. But they backed off their campaign plan to take it

In addition, European leaders agreed last December on a plan by EU President Jacques Delors to create 15 million jobs by the turn of the century. Its most important element is a proposed public works program, similar to the 60-billion dollar program advocated by Canada by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien. But it also includes a pledge of support for increased work sharing. Although the EU said in a statement that it was not in favor of imposing any reduction in the work week, it called on governments to give their citizens the choice that it would be easier for people to work shorter, more flexible hours. One way to do that, it noted, was to ensure that workers would not have to give up social benefits to do so.

As in North America, a number of other factors—such as an increase in the number of women in the workforce and the growth of service industries—are breaking down traditional hours of work in Europe. But beyond the current economic pressures that have led some companies to introduce shorter hours, the question remains as to whether employees will voluntarily sacrifice a portion of their incomes for more leisure time. Most evidence, argues American labor historian Gary Cross in his 1991 book *Time and Money*, suggests that they will not. Even in Europe, workers have generally preferred the lure of overwork rather than the vaguely defined goal of free time. And the weight of history suggests that it will be difficult to convince those who already have jobs to accept a lower standard of living in return for the common goal of lower unemployment. □

"I think we should just keep going. How far north does this road go?"

Elie Garfinkel, teacher, Ford Owner

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ARE WE CHEATING OUR KIDS?

Parents are demanding a return to the basics. Teachers say there is no going back who knows best?

BY VICTOR DWYER

It was the first day of Grade 4 for her daughter, Zoe, and, as it turned out, "a normal parent" in Martha Harris's own education in the shortcomings of Canadian public schools. During the morning recess, Harris, a volunteer at her daughter's extended Toronto school, wandered into Zoe's empty classroom. There, on the blackboard at the teacher's handwriting, was the word "algebra." Assuming the mistake was an isolated one, Harris left an inconspicuous note on the teacher's desk, informing him of his error. Her assumption was optimistic. That year, Zoe's spelling errors were routinely marked "correct" belatedly. Harris eventually met with the principal and insisted that Zoe be assigned a different teacher for Grade 5. The principal agreed—but failed to solve her problem. "The first time Zoe brought her spelling book home," recalls Harris, "there on the first page, copied out neatly five times, and with a big red check mark in the column, was the word algebra with one 'l'." Now in Grade 6, Zoe has what Harris vividly describes as

COVER



an excellent teacher—enthusiastic, dedicated, even a good speller—but Harris, who has since joined the parent activist group Quality Education Network, has been left with enormous doubts about the state of public education. "You start to feel as though your child is a computer," says Harris, "into which the primary schools are plugging a sticky virus. The basics just aren't there."

Harris is by no means alone. Determined to make their voices heard, frustrated parents are forging a path to principals' offices, school board meetings and town hall forums, confronting the educational establishment about how and what their children are being taught. In the process, they are making education the public policy issue of the 1990s. For many, the roots of the current problems lie in what University of Toronto education professor Bernard Shapiro terms "the pedagogy of joy," which, since the late 1980s, "has, in the eyes of the critics, made the aim of education the creation of children who feel good about themselves rather than children who learn real things." Employing a vocabulary of so-called "relatable" about "child-centered learning" and "the primacy of self-esteem," parents feel that the educational establishment has closed ranks, excluding outsiders from the debate. In the process, they say, educators have commodified their own failure to ensure that children learn the basics. From vaguely worded report cards to ambiguous province-

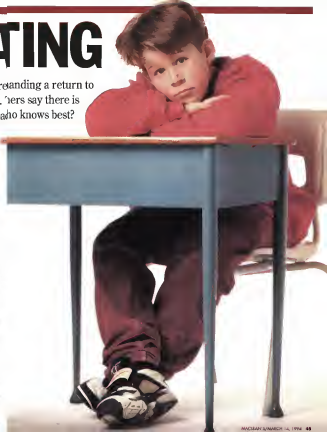
wide curricula, they view the public education system as a dense maze. Says Colin Pearson, a director of Albertans for Quality Education and the father of two boys: "More and more, you just get this feeling in the pit of your stomach, that the school system does not really know what it's doing or where it is going."

Strait economic times have only heightened these concerns. Last fall, hundreds of parents trooped out to school gymnasiums and auditoriums to take their turn at the microphone during 11 weeks of public hearings before Ontario's Royal Commission on Learning. "People talked about teaching and testing, about standards and school boards," says commission co-chairman Gerald Caplan. "But beneath everything, there was a definite subtext of fear and anxiety about what the future holds for their children, and about whether our schools are preparing them for it."

Feeling by turns stonewalled and misled, cheated and sometimes just confused, many parents are, in fact, reluctant to wait for the public schools to improve or become more accountable. Enraptured at the Karmen Educational Institute of Canada, a private company that helps in providing tutoring for children aged 5 to 14, has scored 800 per cent since

1988, with 17,000 students in 190 centres across Canada. "What I am hearing," says Karmen training co-ordinator Tim Peterson, "is that parents feel previous time is slipping by, and that they just want to get their child on track before it's too late." Others are simply abandoning the system. In 1992, the last year for which figures are available, five per cent of all Canadian school children attended private schools—double the percentage of 20 years earlier. Their reasons? "A lot of parents want both quality and continuity," says Elaine Denson, principal at Toronto's private Montevest School, which has 150 students in classes ranging from junior kindergartens to Grade 8. In exchange for annual fees of \$8,200, Montevest offers daily homework assignments, weekly tests and frequent parent-teacher meetings. "What a lot of people are afraid of is the public schools," says Denson, "so that Grade 2 is wonderful, but then Grade 4 will be a disaster. They feel the quality control is just not there."

But, under the intense glare of the critics, many teachers are beginning to fight back, insisting that opposing children's needs and making them about learning is far more important than sending them to bed with their multiplication tables memorized—especially in an era of





"You start to feel as though your child is a computer into which the schools are placing a stupidity virus."

MARCO HANSEN, PARENT

COVER

entire economic flux. "A lot of parents just want things to be the way they were when they were children," says Jacoboff Goodman, principal of Riverside Public School in Markham, Ontario. "But it is not just what we are today—and not where we should be headed."

Real solutions, says Goodman and others, involve moving beyond a fixation with the past, and focusing instead on reinventing the schools to keep them in sync with a changing world. Indeed, many educators maintain that there never really existed a golden age when "the basics" were spread across and taught. "The schools were certainly stricter in the past," says Shapiro. "But were the academic standards really higher? I don't think they were. As always, we need to find standards that are clear, and many educators and politicians have begun to work towards that." In the past year alone, British Columbia put on hold its controversial, child-centered Year 2000 reform. Alberta announced plans to chop the number of school boards, while redefining basic education to exclude physical education and music. At the same time, Ontario instituted province-wide writing tests for all Grade 6 students, and New Brunswick launched an ambitious back-to-basics curriculum (page 54). Just last week, Kansas Resources Minister Lloyd Axworthy seemed determined to do some federal housecleaning as well, promising to help the provinces develop national math, writing and science tests for 15- and 16-year-olds.

Meanwhile, as increasing numbers of teachers are taking the initiative and insisting that more parents start to share the educational burden, "We deal with children, but we also deal with parents, both of whom are working—sharing their lives in day care," says Jan Fraser, who teaches Grade 4 at Bancroft Elementary School in Montreal. Others are offering an open branch, inviting parents to take an active role in classroom life and even working with them to design the first Canadian "charter schools"—schools run by parents and teachers with a common educational vision. Such co-operation is finding enthusiastic support from one sector with a particularly sharp eye on public school—the business com-

munity. "Education has become everyone's business," says Toronto's Gordon Gossop, president of The Learning Partnership, an organization devoted to creating closer links between schools and the private sector. "We don't have the luxury of subsidizing any more—or the luxury of meritocracy."

In fact, research now shows that there is no luxury of time either. According to Marc Cyndler, a specialist in muscle growth at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, researchers have begun to plot distinct and critical periods of brain development during which particular skills must be learned—or forever lost. According to Cyndler, the brain is most adept at mastering many of the most basic thinking skills during the primary school years, between the ages of 4 and 10. Says Cyndler: "The implication is that educators should work very hard at getting it right early." Other experts note that, once all is said, children also tend to develop negative attitudes to learning that can lead to long-term problems at school.

Marcia Scerif, a professor of psychology at the University of Western Ontario in London, points to a study he conducted between 1970 and 1982, which showed a disproportionately high dropout rate for students who had been allowed to left behind in basic reading skills in the primary grades. Said Scerif: "We just can't keep waiting until it's too late."

Obviously, that sense of urgency has fueled parental anger. While politicians was eloquent about the need to tighten standards, says Hansen, there remains "a conspiracy for control, plan and manage." As proof, Hansen and many other Ontario parents cite that province's new Ontario Curriculum, launched at elementary schools last September. The 82-page document sets forth what it calls "learning outcomes"—vaguely defined goals that include, for example, the ability of those in Grade 3 "to select reading matter that interests them," and students in Grade 6 "to appreciate that reading can help us learn about ourselves." As well, it digresses with traditional subject areas, grouping them instead under such broad categories as "self and society" and "the arts"—battering lines, as the words of Shogren. "By integrating everything, kids will learn nothing." Although that lack of clarity is typical of provincial curricula, what has infuriated many parents is the Ontario Curriculum's appearance at a time when so many voices are calling for clarity, more specific expectations. "The standards for what and how to teach are totally open to interpretation by the teacher, and even the parent," says Barbara Smith, a mother of three children in Markham, Ont., and the founding president of the Quality Education Network. "This is not a common curriculum—it's a common philosophy."

If so, the philosophy is also antithetical. Until recently, there has been an almost total absence of standardized testing to gauge individual performance in the primary grades. In place of routine examinations, the vast majority of public schools rely on various forms of performance evaluations of students' essays, oral presentations and day-to-day activities in the classroom. "Parents don't know where their children actually stand," says Reilly Hopt, a father of two in Dartmouth, N.S., and a past chairman of Parents Against Bureaucracy in Education Quality Networking Together (PARENTS). "It's child's not performing, you have to know."

In fact, some critics say that testing the basics is just as important as teaching them—particularly if the aim is to produce graduates who can succeed in a competitive world. "Children have to develop a sense of whether they can meet objective expectations," says

Smith, who is a member of the Ontario Parent Council. "Our child does well have to compete nationally and internationally after they graduate. Why not start them now?"

But the reality of international competition has an even larger question for many educators. In an era of postcard technology and social change, what constitutes the basics—and how can knowledge of those basics be tested in a way that encourages the kind of thinking and creativity needed to propel Canada into the 21st century? Along with such tests is "adaptability and a sense of teamwork," says Gossop. "Business people are more than ever talking about a need for graduates who can think and solve problems—who have developed minds that are flexible rather than simply flush with information." William A. Rivers, co-founder of the Alliance for Educational Renewal, a Toronto-based parents' group, claims that a growing number of parents see the need for schools that can produce such graduates. "We can no longer pretend, when a child is 6, what he is going to need in life to get a good job at 18," says Rivers. "The job of schools used to be to prepare children for the predictable—now it has to be to prepare them for a world that just keeps changing."

One school that is aiming to reinvent itself is River Oaks Public School in Cobble Hill, Ont. Now in its fourth year of operation, River Oaks is probably Canada's most high-tech public school, with 240 computers for 675 students. But the school is also on the cutting edge of progressive educational thinking, unshockingly committed to the notion that the

process of learning is at least as important as the content of what is learned. "The use of all these computers is not simply to have some sort of multimedia extravaganza," explains Grade 6 teacher Brian Aigner.

"The computers are a foundation on which to build a revolutionary set of thinking skills"—skills that involve locating, processing and synthesizing vast amounts of information that no student could ever hope to memorize. "If our students are really learning for life," says principal Gerald Smith, as he surveys a class of Grade 8 students creating a computer link-up with a school in New Zealand, "then we have to move beyond a fixation with the three R's. Here, children learn the three R's in the process of mastering the three E's: engage, enable and empower."

Indeed, although Smith has worked hard to convince such corporations as Apple Canada Inc., Sony, Microsoft Corp. and Northern Telecom to donate thousands of dollars of equipment and services to River Oaks, it is the school's philosophical philosophy that most excites the business community. Along with Smith's three E's, that philosophy includes a firm commitment to an integrated curriculum, connecting traditional subject areas into three broad categories of literacy, whether in computers, English literature or economics; life, such as time management and conflict resolution; and creative application, in which children undertake self-directed projects. The aim, says Smith, is to move away from "a production-line approach to education, in which 40 minutes of lecture is followed by 10 minutes of math

DECLINING GRADES

Do Canadian kids think public schools are providing a better or worse education than they were 25 years ago?

	1980	1993
Better	42	30
Worse	36	48
Same	22	17
Don't know	0	7

Source: Ipsos Reid survey, Oct.



Goodman: a primary focus on reinventing the schools, keeping them in sync with a changing world

and then 40 minutes of history." Adds Smith, "Did you have control in age when children were graduating onto production lines, but it does not end this one." Going, for one, is impossible. "If you take the technology away from Peter Oloha, the child is still there. It's an attitude based on seeing children about learning. Once you achieve that, you find children learning, the discipline is not."

In more traditional schools, memorization is taking a different form. Benchmark education, which all Toronto elementary teachers are administering this school year, offers an alternative to standardized tests—effortless to apply relatively rigorous criteria of assessment to such complex tasks as creative writing, video production and data analysis. A typical Grade 6 language arts benchmark, for example, requires students to listen to a story and then write their own ending, displaying an appreciation of prose, logic and dramatic tension. To assign a grade to each student's performance, teachers refer to five distinct levels of achievement. The result, says Gen-Lise Ching Wells, who teaches Grade 6 at Oak Public School in Downsview, Toronto, is "a way of measuring conceptual skills that lets students and parents know in plain English what is expected, what has been achieved and what will be needed to go one level higher." With school boards in Japan, Hong Kong, the United States and Australia now examining at least letting a version of the Toronto system, says education are describing it as an important first step in developing a form of student evaluation linked to the information age. "Traditional tests were very subjective, concerned maybe one or two things that the teacher thought was important," says principal Goodman, who helped develop the Toronto system. "Benchmarking is a way to judge the teacher."



Students at Westcourt School: daily homework assignments, weekly tests and frequent parent-teacher meetings.

of meaningful, relevant skills that good teachers have always taught—and that are now seen to support them over."

But as they work to develop new approaches to teaching and testing, educators look to their biggest enemies as earlier technological and pedagogical—but social and cultural. If teachers are to instill the lessons of tomorrow, they must, they need children whose learning begins in the years before school and continues in the years after class. Indeed, if there is a common ground where the public schools' most vocal critics meet, the system's staunchest defenders, it is on the subject of parental involvement. Shapiro notes that it is especially important in an era when television lenses are the norm. "What do many parents see as their role in education?" asks Shapiro. "Getting their children to school on time. That has simply got to change." Susan Reynolds, a Bayview teacher of four years, says "If education is failing in bits, it doesn't make sense to hold just the schools accountable. We all are."

'A lot of the important things that young children need to learn...are not going to come from machines.'

THE TURNER, PHILLIPS AND TURNER

Turner says that children are not just sitting there doing for a few hours in the classroom, but it is an essential and enjoyable part of daily life. They will want it. Tim Turner, the program director at Sea to Sky Outdoor School in Gibsons, B.C., does volunteer work in the classrooms of his two sons, Simon, 8, and Irene, 6, who attend nearby Langdale Elementary School. Helping their teachers correct math queries and cut out circles, as well as sharing his knowledge of environmental issues, Turner sees his

work as an integral part of his sons' education. "A lot of the important things that young children need to learn—like how to work with other people and how to ask idiosyncratic questions—are not going to come from machines," says Turner. "For this, they need human beings and it is simply not realistic to expect one human being to fill that role fully for an entire classroom of young, curious minds."

Others see their primary role as working at least some control lines school board bureaucracies, and beginning to influence the direction of educational policy. Many parents say that recent decisions by New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Alberta and Ontario to reduce the number of school boards represent a welcome downsizing of what Toronto's Harris directors in a bureaucracy whose main function is to discourage outsiders from taking part. "There are officers on each member's case, especially encouraging at a time when parents have begun to take control of some of the functions of the boards that remain. Although Quebec rethink strong provincial control over curricula, it now allows parent committees to help define the goals of local schools. Newfoundland Education Minister Chris Decker has promised to implement a recommendation from a 1992 special commission calling for locally elected school boards to advise boards in several levels of policy. At the Ontario Parent Council, meanwhile, Barbara Smith says members are working on a report, due in June, that will call an Education and Training Minister David Cooke to give parents more power in individual schools."

Meanwhile, as increasing numbers of parents and educators are applying the rule more fully—defining that in a final sense to be the only rule of the school—the public schools are the victors. To bring together groups of like-minded parents and teachers to establish relatively new schools. Although such institutions would be publicly funded, and their students responsible for meeting government standards, so-called charter schools would be free to attain those standards in whatever way they chose. Since such schools would have to produce quality products in keeping their government charter, their entire focus would be much-oriented. "There we produce great children will be our own business," says Joseph Freedman, a member of Alberta for Quality Education, who for ten years has worked with parents and teachers in his home town at Red River to draft a detailed proposal for a local charter school. "That we will produce them will be a requirement of our own creation."

Indeed, partly due to Freedman's lobbying efforts, the Alberta government announced in January that it would launch Canada's first pilot charter-school project—although mandatory officials have so far remained quiet on details. In the meantime, charter school enthusiasts say they are heartened by recent developments in other countries. Britain now has about 700 such schools. In the United States, 150 schools, including 19 elementary institutions, have become members of the Coalition of Essential Schools (CES), based at Brown University in Providence, R.I. Among the coalition's guiding principles: parental involvement in school decision-making, highly integrated curricula, and evaluation techniques that focus what city policy director Donald East describes as "public exhibitions of talents and skills, rather than traditional paper-and-pencil work." Reynolds says what she calls "a low-level critique" of public education, the coalition, "focuses, not on pointing fingers, but on making practical changes in a system that is 150 years old and not working for a lot of kids."

Although such school reform will likely remain the exception rather than the rule, it offers a beacon of hope. By advocating the two notions of choice and responsibility, the charter schools' policy debate spread the "subculture of fear" according to Caplan, "made it more appealing to fighting instead of fleeing." "Crisis, for me, was a new mood of cooperation in the houses. 'There is, for all the ferment, a silent and an excitement that was not there before.' It is a mood shared even by such frustrated parents as Harris. "I am not a teacher leader," she says, noting that her daughter's teachers have "been dedicated, hardworking people, and spending most of a year and half on my child." Adds Harris, "I just think it's time we all join in and push the ball along."

By JENNIFER LEE SHEPARDING as Montreal and JOHN GILBERT in Toronto

REPORT CARD BLUES

If Karen Marston had not known better, she would have sworn that her son's early report cards were written by a pop psychologist. The anecdotal reports were full of deep-seated phrases and empty platitudes. "As learners, children, and Peter is an exceptional learner," he says. "He is a very good learner." wrote his Grade 1 teacher in November, 1981. Four months later she wrote, "Peter has certainly experienced one of the key ingredients of modern life—change!" She also noted that his "growth (the young are so much more adaptable) and supportive family helped see him through this amazing time." What the reports neglected to mention was that Peter was completely unable to read. For the mother of two, living in Saltspring, B.C.,

the only available educational alternative was a local Christian private school, where she enrolled both her children in March of 1983. Since then, her daughter, Justine, 10, has moved ahead at her grade level to work on Grade 8 courses and Peter, now 8, is thriving in Grade 3. And their report cards clearly spell out just how much the two have achieved. "Peter is a very good learner," wrote his Grade 1 teacher. "He is a very good learner." wrote his Grade 2 teacher. "He is a very good learner." wrote his Grade 3 teacher. "He is a very good learner." wrote his Grade 4 teacher. "He is a very good learner." wrote his Grade 5 teacher. "He is a very good learner." wrote his Grade 6 teacher. "He is a very good learner." wrote his Grade 7 teacher. "He is a very good learner." wrote his Grade 8 teacher. "He is a very good learner." wrote his Grade 9 teacher. "He is a very good learner." wrote his Grade 10 teacher. "He is a very good learner." wrote his Grade 11 teacher. 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GROUND ZERO

For many Canadian children, charity begins at school

Dennis James was trained to teach out in elementary schools. But during the past three years she has spent almost a quarter of her time guiding children in the fine art of appropriate behavior. After receiving training from a speech pathologist, James began leading a social skills class for poorly students at Corvett Junior Public School in Scarborough, Ont. In 50-minute sessions, James and educational assistant Mary Kennedy direct small groups of students, ages 6 to 8, through simple exercises on such basic subjects as listening while others speak and settling disputes with words rather than fists—lessons that some of the children have failed to learn at home. Setting, in her classroom, James describes one student who would not even raise her hand to make eye contact and still seldom speaks in response to other students or teachers. At home, the child's mother rarely speaks to her. A young boy, meanwhile, shows a lively imagination and intelligence—but has trouble focusing on his work. His mother has had chaotic relationships with several partners and he often speaks of the violence at home. "It could do this full time," says James. "There is a long waiting list to take the course and the sad part is that many kids who need help will never get it."

Located at the heart of a neighborhood in which single parents, recent immigrants and low-income families are the majority, Corvett is a school at which the term "back to basics" has a meaning all its own. According to principal Peter Butler, between 50 and 70 per cent of the students come from disadvantaged homes. In many cases, half the class time is spent dealing with children who are disruptive, or simply too anxious and withdrawn to concentrate. "A lot of the kids here don't communicate—they just punch each other, because they are taught at home to do it that way," Butler says. "Teachers are not social workers, but they are spending more and more of their time training kids how to be good citizens."

Such situations are by no means limited to schools like Corvett. Health professionals estimate that at least 16 per cent of Canadian schoolchildren have emotional and behavioral difficulties severe enough to interfere with their schoolwork. Their problems range from longer-to-second abuse, to their homes, money or affection—or both—being in short supply. Many parents either lack the energy or the knowledge to nurture their kids properly," says Tina Newman, a Toronto, Ont., teacher and author of *Children in Crisis*. "Because of that, kids behave badly and deteriorate incredibly, especially in the past five to seven years. Teachers have to deal with students who are crying, withdrawn or constantly fighting. Kids are the curriculum now."

Butler, a 34-year veteran of Scarborough classrooms, has watched that deterioration with growing alarm. Five years ago, he decided to do something about it, for the final posting of his career, he asked for a transfer to Corvett, a difficult school that many teachers preferred to avoid. Soon after his arrival, he arranged transfers for teachers who wanted out and recruited those with an interest in disadvantaged children. Now, most staff members are young, several have survived tough backgrounds and all have special training in dealing with troubled children.

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with professional counsellors. A special drama class uses role-playing to help children learn to resolve conflicts peacefully. "It blows kids' minds," says Butler. "When they realize they have choices like that." In the library, a student novel depicting aspects of the black experience is featured in the school's distribution list to instill pride in its students.

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One of Butler's biggest frustrations is learning that many parents are virtually unable to provide quality care for their children. "Many are just trying to keep their heads above water economically," he says.

"Some have recently arrived from war zones like Sri Lanka and Somalia. It takes a long time to recover from war zones like that." And when parents are under stress, says Butler, it almost inevitably is passed down to their children—whether they are slapped for small misdeeds or simply reduced to front of a television for hours on end. A sign placed prominently at the school's front door reminds parents that their kids are "always welcome."

But according to Butler, the most serious barrier to the school or even the teachers' efforts is that many parents don't care a damn. "Most are too busy with their day-to-day problems. Children just don't care a damn."

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Butler: "How can you teach a child to write when they have nothing to write about?"



James and James: students who are crying, withdrawn or constantly fighting

PHOTO BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS FOR THE GAZETTE

work in a variety of other areas. "Then does appear to be a critical period in the early years before school," says Pence. "Children who fall behind does have more likely to have trouble later on." Adds Pence: "There is a level of assistance to those children that is very difficult for the school to ever fully counter."

Many educators have long suspected what Pence has shown to be true, and some of them are looking for ways to give disadvantaged preschoolers a head start. In the early 1980s, former kindergarten teacher Mary Gordon decided she had seen too many children arrive at school already trailing behind their peers. In 1983, she helped set up the Toronto Board of Education Parent Education Program. Its aim is to nip the problem in the bud by coaching the parents in basic child rearing. From classes in low-income neighborhoods, the program has much room to include 33 schools. Lessons cover fundamental skills in raising children, such as how to deal with a crying baby. A lending library of toys and books creates resources for low-income families. And parents are taught such elementary skills as how to use a telephone book and look up a name in the newspaper. "We found that if we offer parents early support," says Gordon, "we can change the outcomes for their children."

But the most critical aspect of the program, Gordon says, is its emphasis on reading. Children from disadvantaged families often arrive at school not knowing even the most basic building blocks of literacy. As well as teaching preschoolers that books are read from front to back and left to right, facilitators explain that reading involves words and spaces, and that pictures often provide clues to the story. These lessons end up benefiting the whole family. "It is amazing how the parents are turned around," says Gordon. "They gain self-respect and that in turn is passed on to the children. Those things do depend on us."

Gordon's program has been widely praised by teachers and routinely attracts observers from across Canada, the United States and Australia. But despite the cry of hope it provides, many caution that real change will require more than just a scattering of special projects and the hard work of dedicated teachers. Also needed is a massive shift in social values. Psychologist Paul Stokols of the University of British Columbia in Toronto says that governments should provide more high-quality child care to help the growing number of parents who must work to make ends meet. As well, he adds, all parents need to take stock and determine whether they are able to spend more time with their children, especially in the early years. "Taking a child to a preschool when they already have entrenched problems is like trying to make an 85-wheeler, going 300 km an hour, do a U-turn," he says. "We have a much better chance of raising happy, successful children if we get them off on the right foot in the first place."

PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS



Tokyo students: "Confusion rules about the role of effort"

THE GLOBAL GAP

The secret to success seems to lie beyond the classroom

The Japanese system is superior; the math standard is much higher
 —Matsuko Suzuki, a Tokyo mother who has lived a year twice a week to prepare her 13-year-old son for high school entrance exams
 It's a more drastic environment in Japan here compared to other countries
 —Rick Pando, 13, a Grade 6 student in South Surrey, B.C.

They barely constitute a sensible sample. But those observations, collected by Merion's reporters who studied schools in Canada and Japan, do underscore what for many is a deepening suspicion: that Canadian schools may well be "loser" places than those in other countries, but that they deserve an F on the more critical test of preparing today's children to compete in tomorrow's global economy. And every fear that Asia is at the head of the international class in the near future 1992

study—the most authoritative to date—members at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor compared the math skills of 756 Grade 11 students in Alberta with 4,900 of their peers in the United States, Japan and Taiwan. The Canadian scores were only half those achieved by the Japanese, the highest-scoring Canadian school, moreover, failed to do as well as even the worst-scoring school in Japan. "If this becomes common knowledge in the parent community," believes Joseph Freedman, a Rod Dwyer physician and school critic, "there is going to be a rebellion."

A rebellion may be premature. According to the Canadian who has studied the subject in greatest depth, that country's schools are far from failing. "All the evidence there," University of British Columbia (UBC) education professor David Robitaille observes, "says that the school system in Canada ranges from very

good to excellent." Robitaille's judgment is rooted in a quarter-century of study. Measured against their counterparts in most other countries, his conclusion, Canadian children "outgun liverably." Still, there is a significant prelude to Robitaille's report card: "Behind Asia do better."

Whether that reflects any kind of mysterious secret weapon of Asian education, however, is another question. Much of the difference in fact, appears to have less to do with what happens inside Asian classrooms than outside them—especially at home. Psychologist Harold Stevenson, the American author of the 1990 study, reached the conclusion that "different cultural expectations," ranging from teenage dating at Alberta to fewer divorces in Asian nations, were as much to blame for the results. Stevenson now argues that North American schools will not equal those in Asia until pre-

pare and students, as well as teachers, to ensure their attitudes to learning. Proactive steps there, however, if they begin to build for a firm tolerance point in the gap between North American education and what is achieved elsewhere. Grades-based comparisons of different educational systems are expensive, difficult and far from consistent. Surveys by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) illustrate that Canada spends more than most at its educational trading partners on all levels of education (\$8,359 per student in 1991, compared with \$6,675 in Japan and \$7,204 in Germany, only the United States spent more than Canada, \$6,602). But the OECD surveys offer no assessment of how much Canadian students learn as a result of the government's support. Only one international agency routinely attempts to assess educational schools that assess what children actually learn. The International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA), a network of academics based in The Hague in the Netherlands, but the expense is fraught with intrinsic difficulties. Language barriers are compounded by differences in educational philosophy and the order in which curricula are covered. IEA surveys, moreover, are irregular and rely on voluntary participation; its reports are directed at academic readers with little attempt to make their findings generally accessible.

The result is fragmentary information that is also more suggestive than conclusive. One 1981 survey of science knowledge included Japan—but not the United States. Four IEA surveys in which Canadian students did take part between 1982 and 1991, however, had Canadians performing at roughly the same level as Americans, Australians and British youngsters, but so the two math and science tests in which Canadian children were scored against the Japanese, the Canadians scored significantly lower on the academic scale.

The 1992 comparison that surveyed Alberta students' math accomplishments, meanwhile, analyzed Canadian into a wide-ranging series of studies that Stevenson has directed. The major studies conducted during the 1980s, and his colleagues carefully matched groups of first- and fifth-grade students in schools in Minneapolis and Chicago to socio-economically comparable groups in three Asian centers: Seattle, Japan, Taipei, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. The researchers found the youngsters' group of math and reading, but they also surveyed Asian and American teachers, and interviewed thousands of parents. Their findings: Asian students perform three

North American counterparts, at least in math and reading. In a damning conclusion, Stevenson added: "The education system in both countries appear to build through-put, but not quality." After comparing Vancouver and Calgary students with their peers in Minneapolis and Fairfax, Va., as well as with Asian counterparts, Stevenson has concluded his latest report to schools in this country as well. "You get modest differences among North American cities," Stevenson told Merion's, "but modest differences among Asia cities. But there are large differences between North America and Asia."

Those differences hardly alarm Don Reid's President, and he offers content that Canada is falling behind Asia is the race to produce the best educated and hence, they argue, the most economically competitive—efforts for the future. "Their fourth graders are comparable to our sixth graders," Freedman asserts. "And what is being taught in scientifically for most advanced." In Freedman's view, only a radical overhaul of



Stevenson: "Deliberation built throughout the school years"

emphasize effort and differences among a sharply higher extent than North American. "This attitude stems from Confucian beliefs about the role of effort in achievement," the psychologists theorize. "Americans are much more likely to point to the limitations of innate ability." Stevenson cautions the consequences of that difference: "potentially devastating" for North America's children. While a majority of Japanese students attend after hours "crash" schools or have private tutors to polish their skills, Stevenson assumes many North American parents of dominating academic effort in their own children (say that a bright child) or little (born less bright) as well.

In a further troubling fact that significantly more Asian leaders than North American ones still include both parents—and often a grandparent—in their child's education. While many of these Asian mothers have ample time to supervise their children's studies, Canadian children are more than twice as likely to live in a household headed by single parents. Nailed Street's Hilda, president of U.T. Third Elementary School in Surrey, B.C., "Kids are coming to school bringing a lot more emotional support. We have many working single parents; they have limited time to be involved in their children's education." She also says that Canadian schools excel at certain points that elude Asian educators. One of those is instilling a broad set of civil virtues in students. By way of gym classes, John Wines, a Winnipeg area school superintendent and P.D. candidate in education at the University of British Columbia in Burnaby, B.C., points to the approved school system in the former Yugoslavia. "The best mathematics in the world are still from Yugoslavia," he says with heavy irony. "But they received top recognition." Adds Wines: "One of the things my English is the notion of discipline and order."

Rick Pando and other 13-year-olds at St. Joseph's Secondary School in South Surrey, B.C., have clearly learned to question authority. "If a teacher doesn't have respect for a stu-

MATH REPORT

In the 1992 University of Michigan study, students were about 40 minutes to answer 40 math problems. The results, out of a possible score of 40.

	Mean score	High score	Hours of study per week	On math
Alberta	11	29	3.3	2.6
Manitoba/Fairfax	14	40	3.4	3.5
Seattle	22	41	3.6	3.2
Taipei	29	44	3.6	3.4
Japan	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

North American schooling holds the promise of narrowing the gap. Yes, it is difficult, some say, to find a teacher who should do something about it and I think there are consequences if we don't."

Much of what goes on in Asian classrooms is very different from North American practice. Canadian elementary teachers typically spend most of their workday in class, planning the next day's lessons. After class, work is done. Asian teachers, by contrast, work by above half in many hours in the classroom, away from it, they consult with each other over lesson plans and teaching techniques. The Asian school day, meanwhile, provides for more frequent recesses. Asian schools are said, mostly places, Stevenson notes, "except where the kids are in class. Then they're very attentive."

Canadian students might find other aspects

dent" asserts Gillies Berg, "a student has no need to respect a teacher." For her part, Shirley Han agrees of the "less strict rules" in Canada compared with Asia, where her mother attended school. "My mum was born in Korea," Han told MacKenzie. "People there all have to wear uniforms, you're not allowed to wear nailpolish and you're out of school, you're not allowed to part your hair. They're not lenient about guys and girls doing stuff together."

Whatever Japanese parents may think about pierced ears, many of them plainly find flaws in their own widely studied schools. Kazuko Mito, a 40-year-old Tokyo housewife, is one. "I am not satisfied, really not," she says of public schools, "the teacher of five-year-old kids says, 'The teachers have no personality. Children are not encouraged to develop their talents. They are all the same.'"

Even the OECD engages a dozen schools north of Saskatchewan, Bobakovic is preparing to toss fresh fuel onto the debate. On behalf of the Dutch-based IEA, Bobakovic is co-ordinating an on-going research under way in more than 50 countries (including Japan and the United States) to prepare for the next edition of the international comparison of educational achievement yet to be completed. The Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) will survey more than 15,000 nine-year olds, 13-year-olds and students in their last year of high school in 1995, seeking to assess their understanding of math and science. Last year, draft questions were being tested at several Canadian schools as researchers worked to assemble a global, 125-minute test that will, as Bobakovic puts it, be "topical" under "a lot of cultures."

Many in Canada's educational system will reject whatever that survey concludes as being not just unfair, but close to useless. Geraldine Gillies, director of research for the Ontario-based Canadian Teachers' Federation, fully expects the sort of comparisons that Bobakovic and Stevenson make as "scientifically suspect." Declared Gillies of Stevenson's dramatic findings "It just cannot be so." Gillies acknowledges, however, that she had reached this judgment without actually reading the study. For his part, Bobakovic says that such criticism is undeserved. "There is nothing more people are opposed to these comparison tests are in favor of it," he says, adding, "I think it's probably a 6 to 10/10."

Bobakovic expects to post Canada's marks from the 1995 study in 1996. If they confirm that Canada's school achievement continues to trail that of key Asian rivals, educators are almost certain to renew their criticism of Canadian schools. On the evidence to date, however, much of that response will be misdirected. If North American kids continue to fall behind their Asian counterparts, parents may need to look to themselves for the key to change.

'AHEAD TO THE BASICS'

McKenna banks on reading, writing and arithmetic

The commission's mandate was sweeping: to forge a school system that would mirror New Brunswick's best-educated and most productive workers in the country. The new order was to be a cornerstone of Premier Frank McKenna's unflagging attempt to reshape his province's economic destiny. After six exhausting months and more than 100 meetings with teachers, students, school trustees and parents, the 1992 Commission on Excellence in Education delivered an ambitious vision of reform: its 42 recommendations were wide-ranging, from improved teacher training to a longer school year. But

throughout its 64 pages ran a central theme: an approach to education that focuses on the core subjects of mathematics, science and language arts, as well as modern technology. "It is no good trying to be all things to all people," declared assistant deputy minister Bryan Jamies. "We need to become more focused." To this day Commissioner James Downey, now president of the University of Waterloo, defends that vision. While welcoming a child-centred approach to learning in kindergarten and the early grades, he insists that, as they proceed through elementary school, students learn best in a more structured, subject-oriented system. "If you do that too soon you run the risk of turning children off," says Downey. "But if you fail to do it, you run the same risk."

Last fall, anglophone schools across New Brunswick began to implement several of the ideas of Downey and co-chair Aileen Lundy, on the basis of a document called Education 2000, released last November by the province's department of education. Coupled with a new emphasis on technology, the plan represents a fundamental, \$1.8-billion revamping of the province's educational system. "We've built to basics," says McKenna, "we call it our approach 'Ahead to the Basics.'"

Along with lengthening the school year by five days, the province is making moves towards standardized examinations. Next fall, Grade 6 students will take provincial

tests in math, science, reading and writing. Then, as part of a cyclical program to test key students as they move through the system, Grade 6 students will face province-wide exams in the same subjects in the fall of 1995—followed by Grade 9 students in 1996.

Meanwhile, anglophone high-school students will begin to experience a barrage of regular standardized tests similar to those now taken by their French-language counterparts. In the province's francophone high schools, standardized exams in French, history, math, physics, chemistry and geography have been around for many years. This year, in response to the commission's recommendations, English-speaking schools have followed suit, launching provincial math exams in Grades 9 and 11, and English exams for students in Grade 11. "I think it's important to know, in a learning world, how our students are doing up-to-date," says Downey, justifying such measures. As well, this school year marks the beginning of new course requirements in math and science at all English-language high schools: students will have to take three years of math and two of science, compared with the current requirements of two years and one respectively.

At both elementary and secondary levels, the new educational program puts a strong focus on technology. Each day at Fredericton's McKenna Avenue School, students grapple with computer basics at the school's new bank of terminals. At a dozen other New Brunswick schools students can tap into School Net, an information network that provides access to innovative computer-based learning materials as well as on-line science, math and technology advice from experts at universities and corporations. Next year, that number will jump to 163. "Technology," explains McKenna's principal, Cathy White-James, "is causing a classroom revolution."

For the moment, even those with reason to complain about budget cuts seem supportive—or, at least, resigned to the kinds of changes now unfolding. "The McKenna government realizes the value of a well-nourished work-force," declares Dinna Wilkes, a music co-ordinator in the Fredericton area who has been forced to find other sources of recording funds for junior high school students as a result of financial cutbacks. "It's a matter of rethinking and dealing with reality. While just being asked to show a little ingenuity." But as New Brunswick struggles with its sweeping reforms, the demands upon teachers and students are only beginning.

JOHN DUMFRIES is a writer with SHARON DOYLE DRISCOLL in Toronto



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Like a virgin

As some teens see it, abstinence makes the heart grow fonder

If most reports, they are typical teens with typical interests. Greg Seash is a fairly 15-year-old attending Grade 11 at Toronto, Ontario's U.S. educator-based school, a first-rate education by his friends. He likes Blue Devils and T-shirt. The bookish-labeled 13-year-old Phil Nash, however, are more focused: they are Grade 10 students from Ontario's Maple Ridge school and a University of Toronto student. Both are in the Jesuit school, a pretty 15-year-old in his first year of high school, and a self-described "blue boy" and Maple Leaf "hater." Greg and his buddies talk about girls in the locker room, and Phil and his pals hang out in the video arcade and Jesus and her girl friends stay up all night at "sleepovers." But there is one thing that sets these three teens apart from many of their classmates. Encouraged by their pastor, Rev. Phil Barlett of the Toronto United Brethren Church, they recently pledged to remain "sexually pure" until marriage. "Some adults think that all teenagers are going to have sex," says Jesus. "Well, no. I want to wear a white dress when I get married."

To many, the teen years mean raging hormones, grumpy sessions on the couch, and heavy parties in the back seat of dad's car. But for some teenagers these days, the reality is altogether different. With rock music such as Nirvana's "Smells Like Teen Spirit" and the Phishies, some who have publicly proclaimed that he is coming home for marriage and staunch virgin Donna Martin, a character played by Tim Spelling on TV's popular teen drama *Becker* (1992), they have consciously chosen not to have sex. The campaign that inspired Jesus and her friends to remain virgins, True Love Waits, is one of a number of abstinence programs across the country. "What some would call the old-fashioned idea of saving yourself for your mate is not dead," says Jesus Schier, director of public policy for Focus on the Family, a Vancouver-based Christian support group. "There is a resurgence of the idea of chastity as a virtue, a pleasure, a freedom, rather than the notion that if you are not having sex you are missing out."

Some church programs, including True Love Waits and Y-Way, a workshop run by the Canadian Foundation for the Love of Children in Edmonton, currently confine their efforts to church worship. Others, such as Teen Aid—an education program that last year took the chastity message to more than 200 schools across Saskatchewan—do not outwardly stress Christian perspective. "Our mission is to encourage young men and women to respect the rights of others," says Teen Aid program coordinator Donna Kord, "but as the biblical lifestyle choice." And for teens who have already taken the plunge, the groups of no courage "secondary support" or renewed chastity. "Sure you can't go back physically," says Mary Knapp, who chairs Y-Way. "But you can emotionally and spiritually."

Chastity activists say that school-based sex education programs that emphasize birth control and condoms use not only

poor short shrift to abstinence, but may actually encourage teenage sexual activity. That view, however, alarms some sex educators. They argue that the chastity message is particularly dangerous, especially for young people. "Abstinence is a viable choice," says Howard Engel, interim co-director of AIDS Vancouver. "But I don't think it is realistic to expect that it is not essentially going to happen. Showing some of the options on how to protect yourself is important, too," says Toronto-based registered nurse, sex educator and co-founder Sue Johnson. "For girls have been telling their kids just to say 'no' for years. Some of them say we'll go and back at the moon."

Initiated in the United States last April by the Southern Baptist Convention and endorsed there by the Roman Catholic Church, True Love Waits was launched north of the border in January by the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, a Christian coalition that represents about two million Canadians. For the next several months, youth leaders across the country will hold workshops promoting virginity and challenging teens to sign anti-drug and anti-chastity pledges. "People say make jokes about it," says Phil Nash, who along with Jesus, Greg and 44 others signed up during a United Brethren weekend retreat in late January. "But if they get sexually transmitted diseases or AIDS, it won't be so funny any more."

Canadian organizers of True Love Waits did not set a campaign target, but their U.S. counterparts expect to collect between 100,000 and one million pledge cards before July 26, when they will display them publicly in Washington. That same day, during a Christian youth conference in Ottawa, a group of teens who present the Canadian pledge to Prime Minister Jean Chrétien. "The pressures on young people to be sexually active are incredible," says Canadian project co-ordinator Don Sammons. "We've almost betrayed the kids by not telling them about this option. Youth should be encouraged and encouraged, not scorned."

Still, abstinence is not on the menu. A 1992 Decade poll for *Men's* (1992) found that seven per cent of 18- and 19-year-olds reported having engaged in sexual intercourse, compared with 61 per cent of 18- and 19-year-olds. And in a survey of 4,000 teens that same year, Ronald Bibby, a sociologist at the University of Lethbridge in Alberta, and Donald Pastoria, a vice-president of the Christiana group World Youth Canada, concluded that 55 per cent of 15- to 19-year-olds are sexually active. The thrust of AIDS, HIV and the AIDS virus in True Love Waits is based on their belief, "not contributing to an overall decrease in sexual activity. Abstinence has not been in popularity."

Chastity advocates across Canada hope to change that. While their message is consistent with their parent message—indeed, many if not all support the Christian pro-life movement—they see the use for remaining a virgin as a personal choice, beyond religious conviction. Among their reasons, the "traditional



Teenage virgins
Phil Nash (left) and
Jessica Robertson:
True Love Waits

values" that a teenage sexual relationship can inflict, the risk of sexually transmitted diseases and the "social costs" of teenage pregnancy.

All the programs emphasize so-called safe sex during workshops—such as going on to groups and selling personal health kits—to reinforce chastity as a conscious lifestyle decision. "There are things you should know about sex because they're told that it's a normal part of their lifestyle," says 18-year-old chastity supporter Barbara Morris of Ottawa. "What we should be doing is giving them tools to stand up to the pressure." Marvin her self is one of 24 young people who plan to travel in summer to high schools across the country this spring as part of an awareness campaign called *Challenge '94*. They hope to reach 10,000 students with a combination of humorous skits and messages about the risks of sex.

That message is also stressed by Focus on the Family's Susan Martin, who in September began promoting what she calls a medical case for abstinence: "In a seminar called the Myth of Safe Sex, like other chastity advocates, Martin explains that condoms are not 100 per cent effective. 'Teenagers are getting the message that if it's OK to just do it, everybody is doing it, bring your own condom,' she says. 'We present the only safe sex so they can make an informed choice.'"

Secular sex educators, however, say it is ludicrous to suggest that they teach that condoms are 100 per cent safe. "What we all understand is a parent's hesitation is that there is no such thing as safe sex—the best thing I can do for my son is to say 'no,'" says Sue Johnson, who hosts a nationally syndicated open-line radio program on sexuality. "That's what we also say if you choose not to say no, the next best thing you can do is use birth control pills and condoms correctly." Donna Johnson, executive director of the Planned Parenthood Federation of Canada, agrees wholeheartedly. "Many young adults are at least not being sexually active and we want to do everything that we can to support them," she says. "The problem with the so-called chastity movement is that it says that chastity is the only solution and that if we talk about protecting young adults from pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases there we are promoting promiscuity. That is where I came inched with it."

But chastity proponents make no apologies for their efforts. "A lot of adults carry a tremendous amount of baggage on this issue," says Marilyn Bergeron, co-ordinator of the Canadian Alliance for Chastity, a national network formed last fall. "They cannot even perceive that someone could proceed with chastity without guilt." Bergeron became involved in the chastity movement five years ago in Cornwall, Ont., where she founded the TAC Focus-line network, which for teens and Chastity, a support group for teenagers and their parents. This year the TAC Focus will hold a "virginity day" for teens who come up with novel—and chaotic—ways to spend time with the opposite sex.

Of course, the decision to have sex or not otherwise rests with teenagers themselves. "I have not been disappointed," says Toronto teen Nash. "My parents can tell me that I shouldn't have sex, but they can't actually stop me. What is surprising I have decided to do. And for most other chaste teens, Crystal Cowell, a 16-year-old from Edmonton, says she does not care if some people find her decision odd. "It is my life," she declares, "and it shouldn't matter to anyone if I have sex or not. Adda Kevin McDonald, an 18-year-old virgin in his final year of high school in Cornwall. "If you're serious to your decision, what other people say is not going to affect you."

No stranger to danger

Peter Arnett has covered the world's hot spots for the past 35 years. In his new book, *Live from the battlefield: the New York Times journalist recounts the exploits that have earned him a reputation as one of the world's greatest war correspondents*. From on-to-Bosnian Laas in 1990, when he wrote across the Mekong River to deliver his story, to his Pulitzer Prize-winning coverage of the Vietnam War from 1962 to 1970, to his singular reporting for



Arnett: "It's exciting as hell"

the CNN television news network from 1976 to 1981, he has worked in regions where most people would fear to tread. The attraction? "It's exciting as hell—you go to the world's cruelest places, but en route you fly first class, you stay at some of the best hotels in the world, you're on an expensive account," says Arnett, now CNN's Washington-based international correspondent. "But the other thing is the story. God damn it." Just days after an interview with Meriwyn, CNN sent Arnett, 55, to Bosnia to cover the civil war—said he was clearly not about to let Bosnia make "It is not easy to wear the mantle of a heroic individual," he said. "I may be the first to jump into the ditch to get away from the shooting." In last report, Arnett—by now standing 6'10"—was standing 6'10".



Enter the heroes

Canada's most successful Olympic stars ever returned home last week, presenting movie screens and camera flashes at airport arrivals for the country. "I'm an another planet," gushed **Myriam Bédard**, 24, after Mississauga and a bronze medalist in the 100m freestyle. Bédard won gold in both the 7.5- and 15-km biathlon races, making her the most successful Canadian woman in Winter Olympic history and helping to boost Canada's total medal count to 111, almost double the previous 1992 record. Members of Canada's elite speed skating hockey team, who lost a bronze medal to Sweden on the last day of the Lillehammer Games, were fitted as champions on arrival in Toronto—and became instant objects of NHL gossip. Among them, goalie **Cory Hirsch** could soon be playing for the New York Rangers, while forward **Paul Reinhart** has yet to announce whether he will join the Anaheim Mighty Ducks or return to the University of Maine.

Other returning athletes marked the conclusion of their Olympic careers: **Shirley Baran**, Lee-Gee

Baran, who was a downhill gold at the 1992 Albertville Games but finished out of the medals in Lillehammer, announced that she would be retiring this spring. And figure skater **Kara Browning** said that he is going up the precise routes of amateur competition. "I feel great right now," Browning said before traveling to Miami for his first professional performance. "It's the right moment for me to move on." A former world champion, Browning was in 12th place at the Games after a fall during his technical routine. But he made a comeback, finishing fifth after a nearly flawless long program. Still, Browning never was an Olympic medalist, despite three appearances at the Winter Games. To make up for that, a group of his fans in Nova Scotia has been collecting gold items to create a special medal of appreciation—presenting at least some consolation to one of Canada's greatest champions.



Hirsch: "It's exciting as hell"

Back on the street

A 31 **Penelope Bartenheiser** got her first job selling popcorn at the Hollywood cinema on Tereng's Yonge Street. Last week, now a 35-year-old movie director, she was back on Yonge Street, showing a drama about street prostitution called *Devilman*. A 92 Terengian Canadian production, it is as small by Hollywood standards. But in Bartenheiser's words, it is "a really big break." She spent the past nine years based in Berlin, where she made her first feature, *Twinkle*—about the fall of the Berlin Wall—before just \$150,000. In *Devilman*, her cast includes **Lou Diamond Phillips** and Vancouver-born actor **Rae Dawn Chong** who also wrote the screenplay. Phillips plays a cruel pimp, and Chong plays an experienced prostitute who takes a young neophyte (**Kari Waheed**) under her wing. "This is a woman's movie," Bartenheiser said. "Being a hooker is a metaphor for the powerlessness of all women who have been mistreated or abused." During filming on Yonge Street, however, several men confirmed the metaphor for the real thing—and tried to pick up some of the cast. A case of an interesting life a little too closely.

Chong (left), Bartenheiser: "a woman's movie"



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TALK 19 AND THE DIARY OF EVELYN LAU

(A/C: March 22, 2 and 3 p.m.)

Misery, lipstick, high heels. After mistaking a drooping limo for police cars, On the edge of two CBC TV programs

her time in group homes, her introduction to prostitution and her self-destructive lapses with drugs. The program also traces Lau's struggle to heal herself with psychoanalysis and writing—she is now an acclaimed poet and fiction writer with her best-seller, *Run, Run, Run*, to her credit.

On the poetry of Lau's memoirs is



Girls are still buying into the beauty myth—and suffering for it



On an unusually vivid portrayal of a teen's contemporary life

unusually vivid. In fact, the 22-year-old actress, a first-year student at the National Theatre School in Montreal when she auditioned for the role, was the award for best actress at the Festival international des programmes audiovisuels in Cannes on Jan. 12. On the

desire of self-destructive as a smart, and so smart who is badly devoid of street smarts. And the actress is utterly convincing in her character becomes a drug-addicted prostitute, a master of gabby who despises the pathetic man she serves.

Directed by Sarah Connors, *Diary* is nothing, stylish television. Connors, who credits include *Final Office*, a documentary about the inception of the Canadian Auto Workers union, and *Alphaville*, a comedy feature set at a restaurant in London, the

drama with atmosphere and tension with the excesses of the movie-of-the-week genre. The early scenes focusing on Lau's hardy bare a rusty, otherworldly light, conveying the girl's fear and alienation. And as the begins looking often naked out at her most, the restless run and images of highway overpasses and views mirrored create an oppressive gloom. Jonathan Todd's sound track is more acute than music, but the images evoking metallic sounds have a powerful emotional effect. They are a welcome substitute for the true, manipulative scores that usually accompany TV drama. He cunningly, blurry images and sounds evoked, especially in his portrayal of sensitive vice workers. But other colorful characters, including Nicholas Campbell, a former boy prostitute and Kenneth Welsh's acerbic drug addict, are memorable.

Talk 19, made by Loretta Landman and Adrienne Mitchell, is a less screen polished piece of film making, but it is still interesting to check in on the lives of the girls. Now on the brink of adulthood and in dependence, they are nervous about what lies ahead. Annette, a former prostitute, worries that she will not achieve her dream—and that she is unattractive to men. Lisa, who suffered serious harassment from a group of boys during her first year at high school, considers "the really scary" of the world. And, the self-described "demon seed" of the earlier documentary, scales apparently in her rock 'n' roller boyfriend. "It makes me look good being with her—better for the image thing. It's my good to be seen with a gorgeous blond. And I can't pretend school girl. Like in, I guess, come to think that she will marry a rich man who is beautiful; her cosmetic surgery when she is middle-aged. Only these scenes truly available in any film. The *Scarred* Canadian, now a first-year pre-med student, seems to appreciate that her value rests in more than her looks. She explains that strange cars often occur her at the gas, and that the boys she dates are drawn to her for all the wrong reasons. "I'd love to get to know a guy on the phone," she says, "and have him totally fall in love with me from talking in my voice, and how it sounds and what I say, and not how my lips look or how my body looks." It's a sad comment on the culture of superficiality—and on the sexes that continues to best friends.

PATRICIA HEDDERY



Large Egg Product Group: 75 Cal. (20g. Protein, 5.5g. Fat, 1.5g. Phosphorus, 0.6g. Vitamin A, 0.1g. Vitamin B₁₂, 0.1g. Vitamin D, 0.1g. Vitamin E, 0.1g. Vitamin K, 0.1g. Vitamin C, 0.1g. Vitamin B₆, 0.1g. Vitamin B₉, 0.1g. Vitamin B₁, 0.1g. Vitamin B₂, 0.1g. Vitamin B₃, 0.1g. Vitamin B₅, 0.1g. Vitamin B₇, 0.1g. Vitamin B₁₁, 0.1g. Vitamin B₁₂, 0.1g. Vitamin B₁₃, 0.1g. Vitamin B₁₄, 0.1g. Vitamin B₁₅, 0.1g. Vitamin B₁₆, 0.1g. Vitamin B₁₇, 0.1g. Vitamin B₁₈, 0.1g. Vitamin B₁₉, 0.1g. Vitamin B₂₀, 0.1g. Vitamin B₂₁, 0.1g. Vitamin B₂₂, 0.1g. Vitamin B₂₃, 0.1g. Vitamin B₂₄, 0.1g. Vitamin B₂₅, 0.1g. Vitamin B₂₆, 0.1g. Vitamin B₂₇, 0.1g. Vitamin B₂₈, 0.1g. Vitamin B₂₉, 0.1g. Vitamin B₃₀, 0.1g. Vitamin B₃₁, 0.1g. Vitamin B₃₂, 0.1g. Vitamin B₃₃, 0.1g. Vitamin B₃₄, 0.1g. Vitamin B₃₅, 0.1g. Vitamin B₃₆, 0.1g. Vitamin B₃₇, 0.1g. Vitamin B₃₈, 0.1g. Vitamin B₃₉, 0.1g. Vitamin B₄₀, 0.1g. Vitamin B₄₁, 0.1g. Vitamin B₄₂, 0.1g. Vitamin B₄₃, 0.1g. Vitamin B₄₄, 0.1g. Vitamin B₄₅, 0.1g. Vitamin B₄₆, 0.1g. 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OBITUARY

Candy's sweet legacy

Canadian comic king John Candy was one of the best-loved stars

He played generous losers. Bighearted changes like the bald stud coach fighting to win back his self-respect in last year's hit comic *Boyz n the City*. Or the travelling salesman trying to find his way home in *Planes, Trains and Automobiles*. Or the magnanimous police king finding some space in his love run for a boyfriend's mother in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. Or all the comic actors who have led the Canadian arm of Hollywood—a list that includes Don Ackroyd, Catherine O'Hara, Martin Short, Rick Moranis and Michael J. Fox—John Candy led a singular quality. He could be as funny as anyone. But what set him apart was a tenderness, a gently emotional candor that made him instantly credible and lovable. Behind the com-

ic mask, the tragic mask was always peering through, conveying the sense that his character deserved a better life. And that was certainly the feeling among friends, colleagues and fans who were shocked by the sudden news of Candy's death last week—just a heart attack early Friday morning in Durango, Mexico, where he was filming a comedy version called *Wayne World*. He was 45.

Dave Thomas, who had known the actor since they were 16th members of the SCTV comedy series in the 1970s, spoke to him by phone the day before he died. "He was fine," Thomas told *Melburn's* in Los Angeles. "I got his number [in Durango] within an afternoon, how in my car. I called it this back and we laughed and joked like always." Added Thomas: "There were so many good times with John, so many laughs. We would play on the phone, do voices and do dramatic—just to play. I'll miss him and I love him."

Candy was one of Hollywood's best-loved and most successful Canadian stars. Since his

ing to fame as a cast member of SCTV in the 1970s, he has appeared in nearly 40 movies. There were at least as many duds as hits, but Candy brought a subtle wit and a natural screen presence even to the role of a much more serious character in *Uncle Buck* (1989). "I always thought John was underrated as an actor," *Uncle Buck* director Levy told *Melburn's*. "I think a lot of people just took his performance for granted."

Recently, after a string of box-office disappointments, the actor's career took an upswing with the massive success of *Boyz n the City*. His character in the film, a beleaguered coach who perseveres under the most daunting circumstances, resembles the John Candy who championed underdogs in the real world of sports. Just a week before his death, Candy, who secured a 29-percent interest in the *Toronto Star* in 1991, announced that he was trying to put together a group to buy the beleaguered team from his partners, Bruce McNell and Wayne Gretzky. "If there is any way I can do it financially, I'm sure going to try," Candy said.

An insider panned in for the *Newsweek*, Oct.-born actor, the word that kept cropping up again and again was "generous." Candy, and SCTV cohort Levy, "was one of the sweetest people, one of the most down-to-earth people that you could ever meet considering his status as the star. I don't recall him ever turning down an autograph. Whenever anyone in the street said 'Hi, John,' he always made sure that he said 'Hi back and made eye contact.'"

The flip side of Candy's outgoing persona was his dislike for the trappings of fame. He was a Canadian star who played the Hollywood scene by his own rules. He constantly turned down late-night requests, never letting his wife

Clickstein, from above, as Johnny Laffan on SCTV; with Steve Martin in *Planes, Trains and Automobiles*; with Eugene Levy as the Schmecker brothers; with Flight (Ritchie) himself; notably credible and lovable

Rosemary, and his two children, Jennifer, now 13, and Christopher Michael, 10, become fodder for *People* magazine prying: "He was very publicity shy," said Levy. "I don't think he liked to draw too much attention to himself when he wasn't working."

Star of Candy's all-time to the media may have been related to the way he appeared on his own. "He looked like a really, really, really," said Levy. "He was very sensitive about it. There was a lot of people, a lot of press—particularly in this town [Toronto]—who always took cheap shots." Candy, in fact, considered a commitment to host the 1992 *Gold Awards* after the CBC proposed his appearance with jokes about his size.

But late jokes also defined Candy in his work encores. He made them just as he came onstage right from beginning, with the first, and most accessible character that he created for SCTV in 1976—Judd Laffan, the sleazy host of a TV talk show, was notorious for excessive raving and ranting. And as a classic SCTV sketch he created a devastating parody of an obese *Orson Welles*, attacking rivals of aerial size. However, it was one thing for Candy to rock the stereotype on

his own terms, and quite another for him to become its target. As the star of *Boyz n the City* (1992), the actor played a romantic lead for the first time in his career. But even then his character had to put up with a fat pilot, his mother called him "fat" on the set, and "the movie."

Candy was concerned about his weight. "He was always on diets," said Levy. "He would do the 1000 thing and go on a program. He'd go down, then he'd go back up." In 1984, the actor spent a month at Calabasas's Pritikin's Longevity Center and shed 60 lb. He admitted at the time that the diets of another overweight comic, John Belushi, from a drug overdose in 1982, convinced him to "get healthy." In recent years, the actor regained his old weight, and then some—he re-entered over 300 lb. when he died. His friends, however, said they were unaware of any serious health problems.

John Candy was born on Baltimore, 1936. When he was four, his father, a car salesman, died of heart disease at 25. His mother and her sons, who both worked in Eaton's job department, raised him in Toronto's East York community with the help of his grandparents. He took up acting after studying journalism at Central College. And after doing some stage work, playing a couple of low-budget film roles and appearing in commercials, in 1972 Candy signed on with Chicago's Second City Theatre—the company that would launch such stars as *Apocalypse Now*, *Bill Murray* and *Belushi*.

But while they went on to create *Saturday Night Live*, Candy and other Second City alumni found home on the Canadian-made SCTV. He created vivid comic characters, including the gluttonous Mr. Torgler, the police-playing Yock Schmecker and Old (the third character) Philon. But he also worked himself in bit parts. "The belchman of John Candy," says Levy, "is that you could give him a pie that didn't even smell that well, and he just brought the pie to his face."

Candy headed his first Hollywood movie ride after appearing in Steven Spielberg's *12th Man* party in Los Angeles. "John was in line five that night," Levy remembers, adding that Spielberg later called Candy and offered him a small part in his 1979 war film, *1917*. Later, a speaking contract from *Newsweek* gave Candy his first major role in *Stripes*, an off-the-wall comedy. "He had a good sense of humor," Reitman told *Melburn's*. "There was no self-consciousness about it. It was his place to be, and he was a congenial lion." Remembering a tough, cold shoot in Kentucky, Reitman added: "He was like my big brother. He would give me a cup of coffee and a bad punny and then I would go out into the cold. He was a pillar of support."

And as an actor, Candy did some of his finest work in supporting roles—first Tom Hanks's technician's brother in *Big Red* (1985) to the corrupt lawyer in *Oliver Stone's JFK* (1991). He always seemed happy to help. Liked John SCTV director George Bloomfield: "I have a memory of John sitting on the deck of my house once with my daughter, who was then at the time, and saying there will be tonight her hair to do a double tie. To this day she can do a double tie." The suddenness of John Candy's death has caused double ties in the world over. The man with the gentle face, the big heart and the giant sense of humor will be sorely missed.

BRIAN D. JOHNSON with ANNE GREGG on Los Angeles





Voters remember the little things

BY ALLAN FOTHERINGHAM

Every government that fails—once all governments fail eventually—has a defining work. Usually it's something silly, something trivial, something that seems inconsequential in retrospect. Only those who were there at the time remember the significance.

Richard Nixon was destroyed by Watergate. John Turner was destroyed because he couldn't answer Winston Churchill's question on perfume. It's too early yet to predict the fall of Jean Charest, but we suspect his government will be remembered for nicotine.

The standard intelligence is that public confidence in a government slips when the dollar falls, or unemployment goes up, or scandals erupt, or transfers grow exorbitant and say stupid things.

Who could predict, down the road, that the first gavel inside of a safe for a large majority government would be its bare-knuckled criticism of its own ineptitude? That it was incapable of enforcing the law and order of the land—preventing the smuggling of Kleenex—would be remembered as its own burden? That it was cowardly fearful of adding on the Malverns who were invading the land? That it was cynically going in to Quebec demands so as to help a Liberal premier be returned to power in an election this year?

And in the meantime, of course, encouraging another generation of unrepresentable trends to ruin their health with drugs too.

It's the little things that let the voter's mind. Tricky Dick Nixon, who had just run one of the largest mandates in American presidential history, at first Bushy still dismissed the Watergate breakeven as "a third-rate burglary."

He was not driven from office, just before certain impeachment, because of the brazenly-headed bustle at the Democratic national office—of which he certainly knew nothing. It was defuncted because his "secret" tapes—which previous presidents had also taken—revealed him as a liar, a bully, profane, and sexist, and as all right nasty second-hand.

Harold Macmillan's Tory government at



Wassenaar later left not because War Secretary John Diefenderfer was performing bad mental joggling with a test called Christine Keeler. If that were the case, none of the governments of the Western world—including most of those in Ottawa—would have outlived yesterday.

The Conservatives fell because Trudeau led in Parliament about the delusion. Bedding is OK, "terminological incoherence" as Churchill said to refer to it, is not, in the sacred confessions of the House of Commons.

The reason John Major is in such trouble in Britain now is not the number of his ministers who have been found in the sack (jack your seat), but because of the hypocrisy as plot in his election slogan of "family values." In politics, as we know, it's not your enemies you have to worry about. It's your friends. Who could have thought it that the party's Mike Harcourt, found at the common law

and the longer, an intellectual tree-hugger and fan of Greenpeace, would have his entire time in office defined by a sucky splitting struggle over unrepresentable Clayquot Sound?

A government defined by its sleazy deal with nicotine? That 70 per cent of Canadians don't smoke? What for it. There are larger divisions in cases in the next four years. But if a government can't deal honestly and ethically with tobacco, what about the big ones?

Trudy Kennedy's last possible chance to be president ended on the first day of his candidacy for the Democratic leadership when 77's Roger Muldoon—who happened to be a Kennedy third—asked him why he wanted to be president. The last Kennedy brother had obviously never thought about it, and his fumbling, inarticulate response was—to put it into context—on the level of Nancy Reagan.

Michael Trudeau lost the presidency the night of a presidential debate when Bernard Shaw at CNN asked him the disconcerting question of what he would do if his wife were raped and murdered. The Democratic candidate, exhausted and suffering from flu, instead of looking his papers in Shaw's face and decimating the obvious question and demand that such a query deserved, answered all into a blustering answer that ended up on the commission.

It's the little things that voters remember. John Diefenderfer, one of the great losers of all time, was the 1958 popular debate and the 1961 election by running around the country with C. D. Howe's "What's a railway?" quote. Howe never said it, but that never means anything in politics.

What people remember are the little things, the defining things. Trudeau with "Just watch me." Turner with "I had no option." Mulroney with "sacred trust."

Nobody cares what was Churchill's comment the rest of his career: "blood, toil, tears and sweat." Young will forever be defined by his white that the press wouldn't have him to look around any more, not to mention the third-rate burglary John Kennedy remembered more for his quotes than his actual deeds.

The new and brave Liberals of Jean Charest won't be remembered for their Red Book or their apocryphal promises to slash the deficit and remake the economy. What will hang around longer than they think is the memory that who faced with their first test of law and order, and morality, and health—

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